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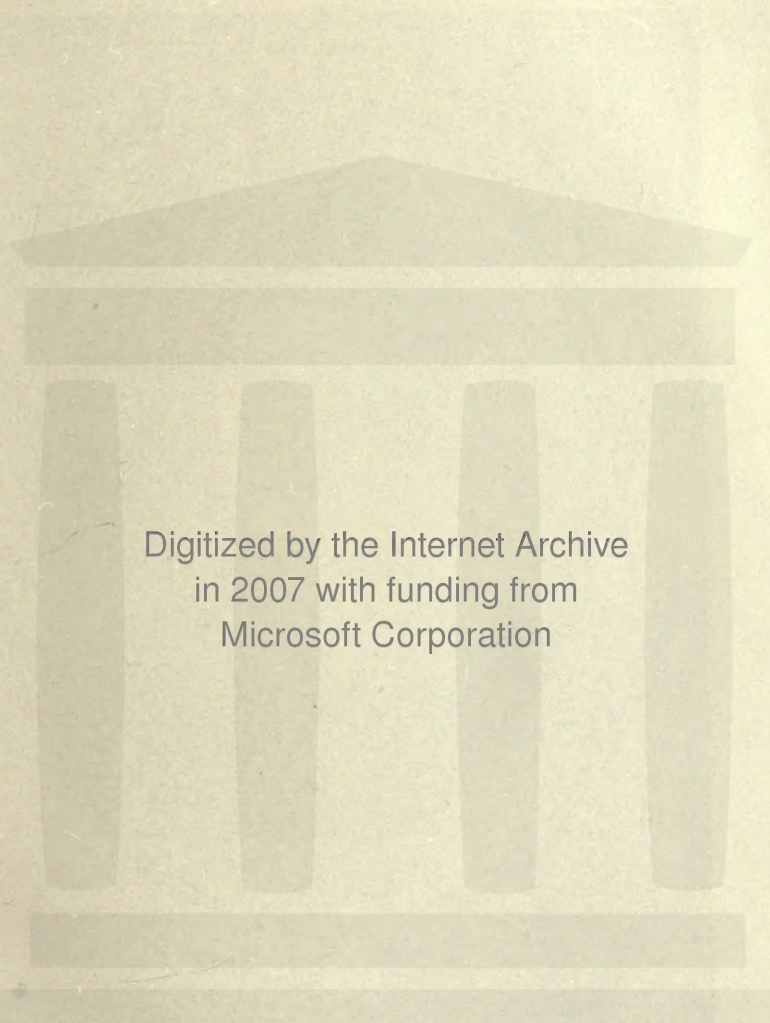












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MRS. "JENNIE JUNE" CROLY



**THE HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**THE GENERAL FEDERATION**  
**OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

**FOR THE FIRST TWENTY-TWO YEARS**  
**OF ITS ORGANIZATION**

**BY**  
**MARY I. WOOD**  
**MANAGER OF THE BUREAU OF INFORMATION**

**PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
**AT CINCINNATI, AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



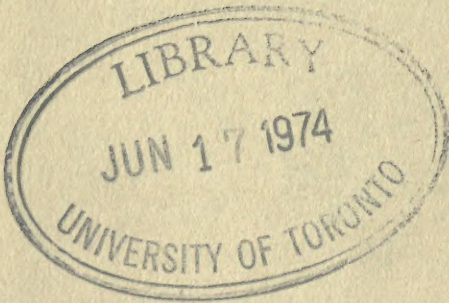
**THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT**  
**GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**NEW YORK**



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NOTE. — These illustrations were determined upon by action of the 1911-1912 Executive Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



## FOREWORD

THE General Federation has passed its majority.

For an organization with such genuine conservative action through a score of years, it is time we should look into the past, and present to those who follow its origin, the trend of life, the place the women of America hold among the women of the world, and the credit we wish to give to the men of our generation and of our country for most helpful coöperation.

There has been constant constructive philosophy, literary, educational, civic, and altruistic, with no distinct period of demarcation, rather each working into and bringing out the most ideal and practical features of the other.

Each administration has been in a sense personal, because the policy has been trusted to the presiding officer, but each has been wisely led, no fads or fancies allowed to creep in, and no exploiting of the organization for personal ends.

When, upon order of the Convention at Cincinnati, the Committee was appointed to consider the history and bring recommendations to the Board of Directors, the names of those you will note in the book seemed peculiarly appropriate, from tried devotion, historical knowledge, and literary ability.

This committee at large, without the knowledge of the one member upon whose brain and hands should fall the burden, recommended the editor, and this recommendation was unanimously adopted by the Board.

We need hardly say to our readers that under such an editor the book offers historical accuracy in retrospect and action, keen insight into causes preceding this great union of force, as well as into the future possibility of well-directed effort, and a literary fascination that holds even the uninitiated.

As a book of reference, it should be in every library and upon every club table.

Whatever comes to woman — work with the duties of citizenship or without — we should be ready with knowledge, judgment, and poise for conservative and progressive action.

*Eva Perry Moon*

*President.*





MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE







## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE editor wishes to acknowledge her indebtedness to Mrs. Croly's heirs and to her publisher, for courtesy in allowing the unlimited use of material contained in the "History of the Woman's Club Movement"; to the Chautauquan Press for material which appeared in the *Chautauquan Magazine* of June, 1910, in an article entitled the "History of the Women's Club Movement"; to Miss Helen M. Winslow, George Willis Cooke and others whose valuable writings upon women and women's clubs have been freely consulted. These sources of material have been invaluable in the preparation of the present volume.

Mary I. Wood







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## PART I

### MILESTONES IN WOMAN'S EVOLUTION





## MILESTONES IN WOMAN'S EVOLUTION

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### INTERDEPENDENCE OF MAN AND WOMAN

IN considering the various fields of activity wherein the twentieth century woman finds herself, there is grave danger that either speaker or audience may, partially or wholly, lose sight of the great fundamental principle which underlies the evolution of the race; namely, that man and woman are but complements of each other. The sphere of woman — to use a term much favored by the disputants — cannot fail to embrace, and in time to be embraced by, the sphere of man. The cause of woman must ever be the cause of man; they must rise and fall together.

Among the ancients there was a curious belief, traces of which may still be seen in the monuments handed down to us, that man and woman were originally one being; but, having offended the great Deity, He decided to cleave them asunder. Separated, they were most unhappy, and their punishment was that, forevermore, their descendants should, man and woman, seek to be reunited, and only when thus reunited should they cease to be restless and discontent. However much of fable there may be in the old legend, the lesson remains the same even to the present day, and no state of civi-



lization succeeds wherein the activities of man are not supplemented by those of woman.

It is upon this basic principle, the interdependence and mutual need of the sexes, that the Woman's Club has its foundation — without creed or slogan, either of constructive or destructive import. The one motive, behind and beneath the multiple and multifarious activities of the woman's club, is set forth in the one word, *Service*. This desire to be of service, whenever, wherever and however needed, is the one bond of union which holds the women of the North, South, East and West, both in America and abroad, regardless of religion or condition of life, in one great body of workers whose membership, direct, indirect and allied, has now passed the one million mark.

Although the Woman's Club Movement seems to be bounded by the limits of the last century, it is in truth a part of the evolution of the race, a twentieth century manifestation of the destiny of woman as the helpmeet of man, in the onward march throughout the ages. No phase of evolutionary study is of more interest than that which marks the persistence of the Divine plan which ordained in the beginning that the functions of man and the functions of woman should remain unchanged amid the ever varying and constantly changing scenes of occupation and environment.

In the study of this sacred relationship, the interdependence of man and woman, this inseparable and indissoluble partnership, which neither fad nor fancy, foible nor fanaticism, can in reality disturb, a few facts of the utmost interest stand out.

Since it is upon these few truths that the Woman's Club Movement rests, it may be well to note the func-

tions which the finger of Time has marked as those belonging almost exclusively to Man, and those which may with equal propriety be said to belong to Woman.

From the very beginning of the human race, perhaps even beyond this point, the male animal may be seen in an attitude which he has been obliged to maintain all adown the ages. When man first appears to the most ardent student of anthropology, he is fighting — now with the wild beasts, now with the angry forces of nature, and now with other savage and barbarous peoples. As he advances, he has other battles, battles for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Man is the warrior, then, from the beginning until now.

Other functions belong to man. He is the inventor, the explorer, the discoverer. To deny to man the almost exclusive possession of these functions would be to discard, at the very outset, the foundation stones upon which has been reared, albeit slowly and with great suffering, a civilization which at last towers far enough heavenward to reflect an occasional glint of the glory of a millenium wherein, regardless of minor differences of sex and sphere, each individual shall strive to give to his fellow man the best that in him lies.

Granting, then, these great attributes to man it may be fitting to ask what are the persistent attributes of woman? Here again may be found just what the close observer of humanity would expect to find, that wherever man has gone, woman has followed closely at his side. Is he a warrior? Then she is the nurse, binding up and comforting and solacing the injured. Is he an explorer, either in fields of country or of thought? Then she is inspiration, encouragement and rest. Is he an inventor? Then she puts into practical use the



thing which his thought has evolved. In short woman is conserver, preserver and helpmeet. As man forges ahead, going from one field to another, woman follows closely along, supplementing the work of his functions by that of her own, conserving and preserving much which his haste has passed by and making perfect much which his eagerness has but delineated.

It will not require a long stretch of imagination to realize that all the conditions of life — not alone life as it is lived to-day, but life as it has been lived since the human race began — all the sorrows, as well as the joys of human life, owe their existence directly to this inseparableness of the sexes. The story of human life in its entirety seems to be but a long-drawn-out tale of the effort of each sex to adjust itself to the other. In the kaleidoscopic panorama of life's history may be seen this insistent and persistent response to the inherent demand of nature, in an attempted explanation of which the ancients have handed down to us the aforementioned tradition. That the present may be viewed in its relation to the past, and present and past together may appear to form an uninterrupted whole, it may be well to note a few milestones in the evolutionary path of woman in order that this constant adjustment of the sexes may be the more apparent. In this way, and in this way only, may the meaning of the Woman's Club Movement appear in its true light and significance.

It is not difficult to recognize the part which woman played in the family and community life away back at the beginning of the race. The first division of labor was of necessity between the sexes; this was the natural result of the supreme function of woman, that of child-bearing, which prevented her at times from joining ac-

tively in the pursuits of man. It brought about naturally the control of production by man and the control of consumption by woman. Man hunted, fished, tended the flocks, and carried on warfare both offensive and defensive. Woman planted, harvested, converted the gathered grain into meal, modeled the earth into useful utensils and wove the sheep's wool into warm clothing. The exigencies of the time made man the provider and woman the home maker. The home itself was early established to be wherever the woman was; man returned from his quest for food, from warfare and from the chase, to the place, perhaps in a sheltered cave or in a tent beneath the kindly stars, where woman, surrounded by her helpless little ones, still lingered. He brought to her the products of his prowess. He lived with her, not she with him. The home was hers, the children hers, the land, by right of the labor which she expended upon it, hers also. The short stay which the warrior and hunter made at the home of the woman made him a visitor who came, bringing gifts to his hostess, rather than a lord who returned to his own domain. Life was continued in his absence as in his presence, and rules of government were not materially upset by his return. Only a few degrees above the higher forms of family life among wild beasts, it may be, but such as arose from the necessity of the conditions of life which surrounded those early peoples. Nor were these conditions so hard and impossible for the woman as it may seem in the light of modern civilization. It was the natural response to the supreme call of the human race, the division of labor between the sexes in which the woman cheerfully and willingly complemented the work of man with her own labor.



While hunting and fishing were the chief attributes of man, woman easily knew and naturally accomplished the work which the needs of the family required at home. When man changed somewhat the nature of his occupation and agriculture became the chief source of food supply, and cattle raising superseded the hunt, it was but a natural result that woman's occupation should undergo changes also. At about the same stage of this history of the race, the prowess of war, with its rewards of plunder and of conquest, brought into the home life new factors which had to be reckoned with. Slavery was developed, new wives were captured and a gradual readjustment was brought about. Men were still, it is true, warriors; but women were retired from the labor of the field in order that the newly captured slaves might be given occupation. Less and less was it possible for man to wander far away from the family now enriched with possessions which must needs be protected and guarded. Man began to have personal property, and the question of descent began to assume greater proportions in his scheme of life. The accumulation of property caused him to wish to bequeath it to his own rather than to his sisters' sons, as had been the case in the earlier maternal forms of society. No longer was it satisfactory that the home, the children and the land should belong to the woman; but, if land and slaves and personal possessions were to be passed on, it was necessary that home and children and land should belong unquestionably to the stronger member of the family; and changes crept in and woman began to be subjected more and more, not alone to the men of her family, but to the requirements of the changed conditions of their life. The household was increased;

the work of tilling the soil was no longer hers, but the advent of the slave and the concubine made more and more intricate and engrossing the problem of feeding and clothing and ministering to the needs of the constantly increasing family which was thrust upon her. Here again, through no visible choice, either of man or of woman, the function of the sexes forced a change in the established order of things ; and as the needs of life made more advantageous to the interests of the family a change in the occupation of man, a consequent change of occupation was forced upon woman, in order that *together* they might supply the necessities of the complex family life which evolution was forcing upon them.

The establishment of a fixed habitat for man wrought a vital change in the order of existing conditions. Freedom of life and action was denied to woman, and the relations between the sexes took on a new aspect. Under the most primitive forms of life, the marriage laws were lax, chastity in its modern interpretation was rare and legitimacy of children a great uncertainty. With the accumulation of property, the ownership of land, the building of a permanent home and the consequent bequeathing of wealth to a succeeding generation, it was necessary that all this should be changed. Chastity among women was carefully guarded and enforced in order that no break should occur in the link which, it was believed, bound the generations together, not alone on earth, but in heaven. Every effort was made to secure this result. Notwithstanding the fact that chastity among men remained a matter of personal choice, women now lived with their husbands, were guarded on every side, shut up in their own homes and punished most severely for even the slightest infringe-



ment of loyalty to the husband who became also the lord and master. The family became a corporation in which every member had his or her definite place and function. But the end in view, the great object for which this corporation strove, was the accumulation of wealth and the purity of descent. This was for religious and economic reasons alike. Woman no longer lived with the people of her own tribe, she was bought or seized from the home of her father and taken, with or without dowry, to that of her husband; and, according to the condition of the latter and his place in the community life about him, she became household drudge or plaything to suit the fancy of her new lord. A recognition of the fact that in the universe might made right gave to the man the power and authority to rule. In this scheme the weaker vessel had small chance for development. Hers was the part of contributing to the success of man, of complementing his effort to secure a patriarchal form of government and succession.

Thus it has been throughout the entire economic development of the world's history. Man has struggled with the problem of production in order that the material wants of the human family might be supplied, and woman has striven with the problem of consumption in order that such supply might be regulated with order and justice. The exact meeting place of their activity has varied with the needs of the times. If the scene of man's activity was far afield, then woman has supplied the needs at home: if the necessities of the struggle brought him back to the family, she has retreated and confined her energies to the more limited space. But at all times there has been adjustment. Did the conditions of life make the requirements for labor few or many,

her attainments and accomplishments were measured by the dimensions of his ambitions and the plan which he had mapped out. He was at all times warrior, but whenever he was at the front warring for fame or principle, woman at home stretched out her hand to save, and the plow, deserted in the furrow, and the hammer, lying on the anvil, were simply changed from the hand of the farmer, so lately called to be warrior, to that of the home maker, now busy with the cares of home and field alike; he was also at all times explorer in fields of country or of thought, but into whatsoever fields he entered he brought woman with him to conserve and preserve the good of the new life into which he had entered. Instances are not wanting to show that the women of heroic days were often able to hold and defend person and property against the aggressive enemy, but the logic of events was strong then as now and military supremacy was not the destiny of woman. Much has been written of the condition of woman in the early and powerful Roman Empire, and the license which was accorded to them at the beginning of the Christian Era. Women were oftentimes free from economic dependence upon the husband; divorce, either full or limited, was common; girls were allowed a fairly good education under the direction of slave tutors and lecturers; and the state protected from man those who would otherwise have suffered from his unwise use of the mastership which he had acquired under the patriarchal form of government. About the sixth century before the Christian Era, the old communal ties of family and of land had ceased to be effective. Wars, commerce and travel had brought together, in economic and social relations, people of many tribes and countries. Voluntary asso-



ciations were formed, some upon an economic, but more upon a religious, basis. In many of these associations women were given a place of equality with men. The associations paved the way for a certain open-mindedness toward the new conception of spirituality as exemplified in the Christian religion, which held up the necessity of worshiping one pure God, living an upright life, cultivating a spirit of brotherhood. At last, when Christianity arrived, the moral demands of the new faith laid strong hold upon the women whose emotional natures, natural instinct for purity, and dissatisfaction with the licentious orgies of the Roman Empire had made them eager for a better condition of things. The advent of Christianity gave to women a recognition and an opportunity which was new to them, and they were among the earliest converts. In those days women became priests and leaders in the churches: they were teachers, charity workers and martyrs.

But the patriarchal form of government had by no means died out, and, while the head of the family had no longer the right of life and death over wife and child, he could still exact obedience. After the advent of Christianity the condition of women differed somewhat in the different countries in which they lived. From the fifth to the fifteenth century, during the long period when the world was busy with invasions, feudalism and chivalry, and the occupation of the great majority of men was that of war, the position of women was unstable and precarious. George Willis Cooke, in his excellent work "Women in the Progress of Civilization," speaks of chivalry as follows:

"Chivalry taught courtesy and good manners, but it fostered sentimentalism, formalism, and immorality.

It exaggerated the virtues and the real merits of women, and brought them praise in place of justice. The economic rights which feudalism took away chivalry did not restore or replace with its devotion and its courts of love. A military despotism, which subjected all women to its excessive economic and political tyranny, could not balm the hurt it gave to virtue and justice by formalities and chivalric devotion. It was well for civilization and for real Christianity when chivalry passed away with the development of the state, the advance of the military art, the growth of commerce and geographical discovery, and the progress of a truer religion. The lament that chivalry is dead is a waste of sentiment, for only in its death could woman come to her true development in womanhood and a real influence on society.

“What chivalry was to men monasticism was to women, an occupation and an ideal. During the period of feudalism the women of the aristocratic class especially devoted themselves to the monastic life. Indeed, from the seventh to the twelfth centuries it may be said that monasticism was the refuge of the superfluous women of the feudal class. Those who had a genius for religion, those who felt a repugnance of the brutal life of the time, and those who were attracted by a life of chastity and asceticism were drawn into the monastic orders. Many others sought the convents as last resorts from enforced celibacy due to economic and social causes, an uncongenial marriage, or widowhood. For virtuous women who did not find an acceptable marriage there was no other refuge or occupation. Some of the orders required no vow; some admitted girls or young women until a suitable marriage had been arranged; and many permitted withdrawal at any time, to join other convents or orders, to make pilgrimages to Rome or elsewhere, or to accept the world's freedom. Then as now some women revolted against domestic subjection, and the convent offered them the only honorable opportunity of escape from its drudgery or its tyranny.”



The educational advantages of the Saxon convents were deserving of high praise. Not only the classics, but law, theology, art and many practical occupations were taught therein. When, in the twelfth century, universities began to appear, the convents began to lose their exalted position as the custodians of books and learning. This increased until, the demand for education for women gradually decreasing, there was a period of several centuries when the intellectual training of women was largely unknown. Without doubt, the fact that feudalism was in very truth a military system, if considered apart from its connection with the land, had much to do with the further subjection of woman to man. It was but natural that such a system should regard as inferior all those who were unable to bear arms; women, children, old men, peasants, mechanics and traders were not alone regarded as inferior but were held in rigid subjection.

Doubtless the necessity for pressing into active military service every available person had its bearing, also, upon the introduction of women into trades. The communities which had at first depended upon agricultural pursuits had developed later manufacturing and commerce. With the changes which naturally followed in the wake of these new conditions and the more complex life which an advancing civilization forced upon them, a great system of craft guilds developed. While man was persisting in his functional occupation of warring, both for defense and for conquest, the women were admitted to these guilds upon almost the same footing as were men. Wives and daughters of the ever increasing body of middle-class men were admitted to the guilds of their husbands and fathers. In the fourteenth century women

engaged in many trades in which they were permitted to act as independent persons, although they were under the protection and guardianship of their husbands. While it is true that many women were engaged in the pursuit of the crafts, it was inevitable that, especially in times of peace, there should have been some friction between the sexes in the economic world; and toward the latter part of the period of feudalism women began to confine themselves to the gentler arts of domestic economy.

#### THE RENAISSANCE AND BIRTH OF MODERN THOUGHT

At last dawned the wonderful period of the Renaissance and the birth of modern thought. New social motives and new rules of conduct were evolved; the value of the individual and his relation to the great scheme of life found its first definite beginning in the awakening of the reasoning faculty in man, which gave to him the right of personal inquiry into the mysteries of nature and of life. As was natural, this introspective and intellectual attitude of man brought him to consider woman also in her relation to the great plan, not simply as drudge or toy, not as an object of adoration nor of loathing, but as an individual whose place in the great plan of the universe had its meaning also. In 1530 so much had public opinion changed regarding woman and her attributes that Cornelius Agrippa had the courage to publish a book in which he argued that the difference of sex was one of body and not of soul. "As to the soul, men and women are alike: but in all else, woman is superior." As a proof of this argument, he called attention to the fact that in an ascending scale, she was created



after and not before man. Nor was Agrippa alone in his regard for woman, for most of the writers who were exponents of the great humanist movement which was sweeping over the civilized world in the sixteenth century gave to woman more than passing attention. Affairs which attracted the men of that period attracted the women also, although in a much less marked degree. There has come down to modern times a long list of names of the women of the Renaissance whose achievements in art, literature, culture and even affairs of political economy brought to them lasting recognition.

The women of the French salons in the seventeenth century were vital factors, not to be overlooked, in the intellectual and political advancement of the times. Nor is it possible to ignore the connection which women had in the class and economic changes which an advancing civilization wrought. A growing conception was forcing itself upon the people that not to the wealthy and powerful alone belonged the rights of citizenship. In the rebuilding of society and governments upon the principle that the individual possessed the right to an individual expression in the laws of the land, and also possessed an inalienable right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," woman also counted herself, and was counted, as an individual capable of reason and judgment, and her assistance in the revolutionary epoch of the eighteenth century must not be overlooked. The old theory that might was right, upon which the world had based its development, was gradually undergoing a change, and a supremacy of intellect was taking its place. Man's function as warrior, while still strong, was no longer his supreme function; his function as explorer, while by no means defunct, was seeking new

channels; and his function as inventor was in the ascendancy, concentrating and centralizing his other functions in the expression of a new doctrine which was to moralize and humanize and harmonize all animate life into a glorious brotherhood.

In this latter as in the former life, woman finds herself indispensable to the best interests of the race: in this, as in all other phases of the development of civilization, her part as conservator, preserver and helpmeet cannot be overlooked.

The nineteenth century dawned — a product of the Renaissance whose roots reached away back through the history of the race to the first effort at adjustment made naturally and without effort in the first human family when the mere fact of sex determined the division of labor.

#### INTELLECTUAL AWAKENING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

In the history of the world some chapters are writ large, — these have been barely touched upon, — but none appear in bolder type than the chapter which deals with the nineteenth century, an epoch which will stand out forever a monument to humanitarian principles as applied to the progress of civilization. From these principles are developed all the reforms which are forcing themselves to the notice of the people of to-day; abolishment of slavery, a spirit of mercy toward the dumb beast, a better understanding of the rights of childhood, a growing recognition of the value and emancipation of woman.

In the finest chapter of her excellent work, "The History of the Woman's Club Movement," Mrs. Croly,



the founder of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, speaks of the moral and spiritual awakening in words which should not be forgotten. She says:

"This new view, this great advance of the moral and spiritual forces, addressed itself with signal significance to women. To those who were prepared it came not only as an awakening, but as emancipation — emancipation of the soul, freedom from the tyranny of tradition and prejudice, and the acquisition of an intellectual outlook, a spiritual liberty achieved so quietly as to be unnoticed, except by those who watched the progress of this bloodless revolution, and the falling away of the shackles that bind the spirit in its early and often painful effort to reach the light.

"The broadening of human sympathy, the freedom of will, give rise to a thousand new forms of activity; some of these an expansion of those which had previously existed; others opening new channels of communication; all looking toward wider fields of effort, a larger unity; a more complete realization of the eternal ideal: the Fatherhood of God, the motherhood of woman, the brotherhood of man.

"Realization of this ideal brought a new conception of duty to the mind of the woman, unlocked the strong gates of theological and social tradition, and opened the windows of her soul to a new and more glorious world. The sense of duty is always strong in the woman. If she disregards it she never ceases to suffer. Her convictions of it have made her the most willing and joyful of martyrs, the most persistent and relentless of bigots, the most blind and devoted of partisans, the most faithful and believing of friends, and the only type out of which nature could form a Mother.

"This quality has made women the conservative force they are in the world, and gives all the more importance to the new departure, to the influences of the new source of enlargement that have come into their lives.

"Thus it becomes a necessity that the quickening of conscience, the widening of sympathy, the influence of aggregations, the stimulus to desires and ambitions, should be accompanied by corresponding growth in knowledge and a love beyond the narrow confines of family and church.

"The cry of the woman emerging from a darkened past was 'light, more light,' and light was breaking. Gradually came the demand and the opportunity for education; for intellectual freedom, for women as well as for men; for cultivation of gifts and faculties.

"The early half of the century was marked by a crusade for the cause of the better education of women as significant as that for the physical emancipation of the slave, and as devoted on the part of its leaders.

"Simultaneous with this were two other movements — the anti-slave agitation, inspired by the new enthusiasm for human rights and carried on largely by the Quakers of both sexes and the woman's rights movement which was the natural outgrowth of the individual sovereignty idea which the German philosophers had planted, and of which Mary Wollstonecraft was the first great woman exponent.

"The keynote of the educational advance was struck by Emma Willard in 1821. She was followed by Mary Lyon, Mary Mortimer, and other brave women who dared to ask for women the cultivation of such faculties as they possessed, without let or hindrance. This demand has taken the century to develop and enforce. The work was so gradual that it is not yet, by any means, accomplished. Schools and colleges exist, but not yet equally, except here and there. They are, however, giving us an army of trained women who are bringing the force of knowledge to bear upon questions which have heretofore only enlisted sympathies.

"Simultaneous with this creation of educational opportunity has arisen an eager seeking after knowledge on the part of women who have been debarred from its enjoyment or lacked opportunity for its acquisition.



The knowledge sought was not that of a limited, sectional geography, or a mathematical quantity as taught in schools, but the knowledge of the history and development of races and peoples, of the laws and principles that underlie this development, and the place of the woman in this grand march of the ages.

"The woman has been the one isolated fact in the universe. The outlook upon the world, the means of education, the opportunities for advancement, had all been denied her; and that 'community of feeling and sense of distributive justice which grows out of coöperative interests in work and life, had found small opportunity for growth or activity.'

"The opportunity came with the awakening of the communal spirit, the recognition of the law of solidarity of interests, the sociologic advance which established a basis of equality among a wide diversity of conditions and individualities, and opportunities for all capable of using them. This great advance was not confined to a society or a neighborhood; it did not require a subscription to a tenet, or the giving up of one's mode of life. It was simply the change of a point of view, the opening of a door, the stepping out into the freedom of the outer air, and the sweet sense of fellowship with the whole universe that comes with liberty and light.

"The difference was only a point of view, but it changed the aspect of the world.

"The new note which meant for the woman liberty, breadth, and unity was struck by the woman's club.

"To the term 'club,' as applied to and by women, may be fitly referred the words in which John Addington Symonds defines 'Renaissance.' 'This,' he remarks, 'is not explained by this or that characteristic, but as an effort for which at length the time had come.' It means the attainment of the conscious freedom of the woman spirit, and has been manifested first most strongly and most widely in this country, because here that spirit has attained the largest measure of freedom.

"The woman's club was not an echo; it was not the

mere banding together for a social and economic purpose, like the clubs of men. It became at once, without deliberate intention or concerted action, a light-giving and seed-sowing center of purely altruistic and democratic activity. It had no leaders. It brought together qualities rather than personages, and by a representation of all interests, moral, intellectual and social, a natural and equal division of work and opportunity, created an ideal basis of organization, where every one has an equal right to whatever comes to the common center; where the center itself becomes a radiation for the diffusion of the best of that which is brought to it, and into which all being freely given, no material considerations enter.

"This is no ideal or imaginary picture. It is the simplest prose of every woman's club and every club-woman's experience during the past thirty years.

"It has been in every sense an awakening to the full glory and meaning of life. It is also a very narrow and self-absorbed mind that only sees in these openings opportunities for its own pleasure, or chances for its own advancement, on its own narrow and exclusive lines. The lesson of the hour is help for those that need it, in the shape in which they need it, and kinship with all and everything that exists on the face of God's earth. If we miss this, we miss the spirit, the illuminating light of the whole movement, and lose it in the mire of our own selfishness.

"The tendency of association upon any broad human basis is to destroy the caste spirit, and this the club has done for women more than any other influence that as yet has come into existence. A club that is narrowed to a clique, a class or a single object is a contradiction in terms. It may be a society or a congregation of societies, but it is not a club. The essence of a club is its many-sided character, its freedom in gathering together and expressing all shades of difference, its equal and independent terms of membership, which puts every one upon the same footing, and enables each



one to find or make her own place. The most opposite ideas find equal claim to respect. Women widest apart in position and habits of life find much in common, and acquaintance and contact mutually helpful and advantageous. Club life teaches us that there are many kinds of wealth in the world — the wealth of ideas, of knowledge, of sympathy, of readiness to be put in any place and used in any way for the general good. These are given, and no price is or can be put upon them, yet they ennoble and enrich whatever comes within their influence.

“We are only at the threshold of a future that thrills us with its wonderful possibilities — possibilities of fellowship, where separation was; of love, where hatred was; of unity, where division was; of light, physical, mental and spiritual, where darkness was; of agreement and equality, where differences and traditions had built up walls of distinction and lines of caste. This beautiful thing needs only to be realized in thought to become an actual fact in life, and those who do realize it are enriched by it beyond the power of words to express.

“Women have been God’s own ministers everywhere and at all times. In varied ways they have worked for others until the name of woman stands for the spirit of self-sacrifice.

“Now, He bids them bind their sheaves and show a new and more glorious womanhood; a new unit — the completed type of the mother-woman, working with all, as well as for all.”

#### BEGINNINGS OF THE FORMATION PERIOD

Although the date of the formation of the first club\* is still a matter of some difference of opinion, it is safe to state that the club movement, as it is understood to-day,

\* See Part IV, Doc. XII.

took tangible shape not far from 1866. This is a significant date, since it marked the settling down of the country after the fierce struggle which, in North and South alike, had wrought havoc in the hearts of the American people. It was midway in the nineteenth century, which marked an era of unprecedented inventive and industrial activity which completely revolutionized the economic world. It developed new duties and new responsibilities for woman as well as man. Perhaps in no way can we picture more plainly the great change which the inventive, industrial period of the middle of the nineteenth century wrought in the life of woman than by glancing at the home life of the women of the first quarter of the century and comparing it with that of the last quarter.

It might be well to look at a pioneer family of New England as they sit at their evening meal. At the table are the father, mother and a large family of children. Under their feet, the carpet, if they are so fortunate as to possess one, is the work of the housewife. She it is who has torn and sewed those rags and braided them into rugs or, at the great loom under the rafters of the upper rooms, woven them into the breadths of carpeting which cover the floor. From the huge timbers overhead hang every kind of dried fruit and berry, while from rafters and beams of still other rooms, or deeply hidden away in barrels, are great cuts of meat; all conserved and preserved by her untiring energy. Every article of clothing which is worn by the good man of the house and by each of his children, unless the shoes be excepted, is the result of her handiwork. A little later, as they retire for the night, they sleep upon beds, the feathers for which were plucked and the ticks made and filled



by this same active woman; they sleep also between sheets and under blankets, patchwork quilt and coverlid, which are the work of her hands. The doorway of that early cottage was the gateway between the kingdom of man and that of woman. Beyond that doorway man toiled, tending the flocks and tilling the soil and bringing to that gateway the raw material which woman received, and straightway, within the home, converted into the finished product. She carded and spun, wove, cut, fashioned and sewed, until the sheep's fleece became clothing for the entire family. She brewed, baked, preserved and cured until the berries of the field, the yield of the earth, and the patient animals themselves became food for those dependent upon her.

Into this active, restricted, but altogether useful life of woman came a new factor which was to revolutionize that life. Nor is it without significance that that factor came not as a result of that ever inventive and resourceful mind of man, which was alert both to the financial and economic advantage of his own ability to bring about marvelous changes in the established order of things. It was the invasion of her home industries by such labor-saving devices as the sewing machine, the knitting machine, the carder, the spooler, the spinning jenny and the loom, driven by motive power within the walls of great factories, that turned the hands and minds of women into new channels. It was the advent of the butcher, the baker, the tailor, the candle maker, the cannery, the ready-made clothing house, the steam laundry and a thousand other industries, once hers, now taken over into the hands of men, that made out of what had hitherto been one great class of women at least three distinct classes.

One of these classes is made up of those women, who, being obliged to add to the wage-earning capacity of the family under its changed conditions, followed their work as it went out of the home and may be found to-day beside the looms of our great factories, behind the machines in our workshops, at the counters of our great stores. Everywhere in this world where work may be found there also may be found representatives of this great class of women workers — an economic force — with entire time and thought devoted to the furtherance of the employer's interest and the maintenance of life itself.

At the other extreme may be found a large class of women, who, with the coffers of husband and father filled to overflowing with the result of the successful management of what was formerly woman's work, find themselves with a possession hitherto unknown to woman — leisure time. These women have enlarged their homes, increased the amount of personal adornment, and have given themselves over to the pursuit of personal pleasure. From neither of these classes was the Woman's Club Movement formed; but between these two classes is a third, a great throng of earnest, eager women who are neither forced by the exigencies of their fortune to add to the wage-earning capacity of their families nor are they willing to give themselves up to a life of personal indulgence. These women are they who realize somewhat the responsibility of life, and know that with every added moment of leisure time comes an added meed of responsibility — that each additional dollar brings its measure of responsibility for the proper expenditure of it. These women realize that their part is still that of conserver and preserver, and they had



asked themselves, as soon as their eyes became a bit accustomed to the growing light of freedom: In what way may I become of service under these changed conditions of life? A little of this was brought home to them in those days of trial when every able-bodied man had gone to the front to lay down his life at his country's call or to come back maimed, crippled or impoverished by that terrible experience. Women had learned a little of their own strength and ability to help in that time of need. All things had combined to make ripe the time for the foundation of the movement which is now known as the Woman's Club: the educational door had been opened, the call to service had come to women at home as to men at the front; all things worked together to give to women a conscious freedom of thought and action, a quickened sense of their own responsibility and power.

The earliest form of the woman's club was the study club, the "Middle-aged Woman's University," as it was called somewhat facetiously by those who felt half inclined to criticize. But the term, given at first in semiderision, does not sound so badly now that the club has become a fixture upon society and has evolved into a useful adjunct to our everyday civilization. It is true that the club attracted at first and still does attract, in a very large degree, the women who are no longer of school age, women who have already entered upon the serious work of life, women whose children are well out of the nursery, women who desire to be of service to women other than themselves and children other than their own. The early club was rather an exclusive affair, in which the membership was ordinarily confined to women of similar walks in life, women who had inter-

ests in common, whose tastes were congenial. It was an unusual thing to find in those earlier clubs women who did not meet often at other social gatherings, or at church, or at each others' homes. These bodies of congenial spirits met regularly and discussed questions in the realm of art and literature. The first programs savored strongly of the artistic and literary themes and but little of the scientific and philanthropic.

While the foregoing is true of the clubs which began to spring up all over the country, and while it is still true, in a greater or lesser degree, in many clubs to-day, the real meaning of the club movement as laid down by such women as Mrs. Croly, Julia Ward Howe, Charlotte Wilbour and others, and as carried out by the best and most active leaders of the present day, was something far greater and deeper in significance than the formation of study classes and literary clubs.

In 1868 we find Sorosis of New York setting forth in her articles of incorporation the fact that the society was formed for the promotion of useful relations among women, the discussion of principles which promised to exert a salutary effect upon women and on society, and the establishment of an order which should render women helpful to each other and actively benevolent to the world. And in 1869 we find Mrs. Croly attempting to introduce a measure which commended to the attention of the club, matters connected with public education and reformatory schools, hygienic and sanitary reforms, female labor, the department of domestic economy, dishonesty in public life, and so forth. The measure was defeated, it is true, but its introduction at that time shows conclusively that, even at the outset, the founders of the Woman's Club Movement had in



mind the organization of a body of social workers who should make better conditions on every hand.

But it should not be forgotten that Mrs. Croly and her coworkers were of a most fortunate class; they were women who had already many interests outside the then limited sphere of woman's activities. They were women who had seen and felt and become a vital part of the great moral and spiritual quickening of the times, which was already forcing men and women out of the tyranny of tradition and prejudice into the freedom of intellectual thought and action. They had seen brave women come out at least partially victorious in their campaign for the higher education of women, and they belonged to the class of women who were stirred to higher thought and nobler action by the trying times from which the country was then struggling to emerge. They were ready to take a firm hold upon the affairs of the world. They needed but a strength of fellowship and federation to give them courage and faith. This the club gave them.

Not so, however, with the women remote from the large centers, women who had not yet felt the thrill of the pregnant possibilities of the times, women who had still to combat tradition and bigotry in their own communities and sometimes even in the bosom of their own families. For these women the club meant first of all a fellowship, a community of interests, an opportunity for enlarged mental activity and a genial and appreciative atmosphere. *It meant a school where they might teach and be taught, a mutual improvement society, which should educate them and lead them out into better hopes, nobler aspirations and larger life.* An examination of the programs followed by those clubs shows also a de-

cided leaning toward the study of history, art and literature. There are many high-sounding titles and many names of philosophers and poets. The working out of these programs brought down upon the heads of the workers much adverse criticism. They were termed "second-hand wisdom," "encyclopedic rehearsals," and many other unpleasant names, the more unpleasant because there was a goodly modicum of truth in the accusations. Club members writing on Plato and Dante, on the language of the Iroquois, or the trail of the Saracens in Spain, found it difficult to improve upon the carefully written and wisely edited pages of encyclopedias and historic tomes.

But while granting that the critics had some basis for their gibes, the fact must be constantly kept in mind that these pages of borrowed wisdom, delivered before a body of earnest women, were not to be despised. They were stepping-stones to greater things. They represented a stage in the evolution of the leading social service club of the present day. They gave to women, unaccustomed to the sound of their own voices, courage to speak before an audience; they gave them an ability to express their thoughts in logical sequence; they enabled speakers in the discussions which followed the papers to "think on their feet," an accomplishment which is of inestimable value to either man or woman; they gave an interchange of ideas whereby other thoughts, fresh and creative, had birth.

Even as a child creeps before he walks and supports his first steps by clinging to those stronger and older than himself, so the pioneer clubwoman developed slowly but surely her own independence of thought and action, and the resolute, useful club worker of to-day



is the true outgrowth of the clubwoman of the middle-aged women's university of twenty-five years ago.

#### WOMEN AS ORGANIZERS AND LEADERS

There will always be, for those who study the progress of mankind, an especial significance attached to that period of time which marks the advent of women as organizers and as leaders of great organized movements. For them the nineteenth century will form a background against which will stand out in bold relief the first efforts of women, banded together to share with men the responsibilities of life.

Previous to the nineteenth century there had been worthy examples of religious organizations among women who, some for one reason and some for another, had separated themselves from their families and had become ministering angels to the poor, guardians of the orphaned rich, teachers, nurses and devotees. Not until that time, however, did women begin to form organizations which should be carried on by them for definite purposes, without separating themselves from the regular occupations of home life; and not until the century was well advanced did the many industrial and economic changes in the world about them force women to recognize the claims of society to their best thought and endeavor.

Early in the century there had appeared many organizations for charitable and missionary work, but these early organizations seem to have been auxiliaries to larger groups of men who were working toward the same end. Not until the formation of the Woman's Suffrage Association and the Woman's Christian Tem-

perance Union can there be said to have been any distinct group of women with a national or world-wide affiliation, working for a definite purpose along perfectly independent lines. To these pioneer workers all later bodies of organized women are indebted for methods of organization and for examples of continued and courageous devotion to duty.

The movement for united activities among women had found expression, at about the middle of the century, in various study clubs scattered about in many of the larger towns throughout the United States, but it was not until near the close of the century that the idea of a world-wide banding together of clubwomen had birth.

#### MRS. CROLY: SOROSIS AND THE FIRST ORGANIZATION

Among the pioneer women's clubs was the Sorosis of New York City. This club had been organized in 1868 by Mrs. Jennie C. Croly, who was better known to the reading public of that day as Jennie June. From year to year it had attracted to itself many women of experience and ability, and in January, 1889, being about to complete the twenty-first year of its existence, a business meeting of the club was held, at which were discussed plans for the suitable celebration of the date upon which Sorosis should attain her majority.

At this meeting a proposition was made by Mrs. Croly and unanimously adopted by the members present that the occasion be marked by a convention of all the women's clubs known to be in existence. Her proposition included the following call, which accordingly was sent out :



## CALL

In March of the present year (1889) Sorosis, the pioneer woman's club, attains its majority. It is proposed to celebrate its twenty-first anniversary by a convention of clubs, to meet on the 18th, 19th, and 20th days of March next; and in pursuance of this object a delegate from your club is cordially invited to be its representative, and assist, by a report of your methods and their results, in furthering the larger aims of the convention.

The topics to be discussed will be :

1. The enunciation of the woman's club idea and its point of departure from the society.
2. The data upon which to gauge the extent to which in twenty-one years club life has grown among women.
3. In what it consists, and how it differs from the club life of man.
4. The methods and their operation.
5. Results obtained and outlook for the future.
6. The influence exerted upon the communities in which they exist.

The associated life of women is now an established fact. Twenty-one years of growth have demonstrated it. This life has produced as its first flower a bond of good fellowship to which every good clubwoman responds.

This call was sent to ninety-seven clubs, and on the 20th of March, in Madison Square Theater, New York City, there assembled delegates from sixty-one of these clubs, while letters were received from six others.\*

The convention was a most notable one, a conference of club workers from North, South, East, and West. Mrs. Croly writes of it: "It was a revelation of a new force in progressive womanhood. . . . There was noth-

\* See Part IV, Doc. I.

ing aggressive in the work, no effort at propaganda, — only the opening of doors and windows of souls, and consequent light and sunshine flowing in upon other minds and souls. It was the most wonderful of experimental gatherings. It has been repeated many times since, though never perhaps with the same thrilling effect.”

It was inspirational, revivifying and prophetic.

In an address made by Miss Mary Eastman of the New England Woman's Club the prevailing sentiment was admirably expressed. “. . . I have rejoiced to-day in the *manyness* of us more than in anything else. To-day I felt the joy of the vast intellectual wealth in us, and it has been like a shock of electricity. I am glad that so many could come; I am glad we clasp hands so widely, and now begin to understand each other. It seems to me that as I feel the great love that comes from so many, it is almost too great a joy, and somehow we want to learn to bear it. We must learn sympathy, learn unity, learn the great lesson of organization. I am sure we never have begun to dream of what will yet appear. This club and other clubs reach out into the new life for women. It is certainly a new life. These clubs have made a new world, and we have got to adapt ourselves to it and to educate the world around us.”

It was upon this occasion that Mrs. Clymer \* made use of the phrase that afterward became the motto of the General Federation. The closing words of her address were: “We look for unity, but *unity in diversity*. We hope that you will enrich us by your varied experiences, and let us pledge ourselves to work for a common cause

\* Now Mrs. Webster Glynes, of London, England.



— the cause of womanhood throughout the world.” Looking backward over the growth and development of the organization since these words were spoken and realizing that the audience at that time was almost entirely made up of representatives from self-culture clubs, the prophetic vision of the speaker now meets an ever increasing appreciation. The motto, first given to a gathering of women whose work seems now to have been marked by much unity of purpose, but somewhat limited diversity of action, applies each year with greater appropriateness to the work of a great organization whose unity of purpose remains unchanged notwithstanding the constantly increasing diversity of methods, aims and activities.

This gathering of women was, even to themselves, a revelation of a new force. The reports from the individual clubs showed great similarity. Starting almost invariably with the small band of congenial women who came together for self-culture and intellectual improvement, the very exercise of these pursuits had aroused a thirst for knowledge along broader lines and had turned the thoughts of the members from the old meaningless routine of social life into a wider, more stimulating interest and participation in educational and civic affairs.

#### THE FEDERATION MOVEMENT

There was much enthusiasm manifested in the federation movement, and a committee was appointed by unanimous consent to draft a constitution and present a plan of organization, which should be ratified the following year. The committee named was a group of remarkable women whose influence had been felt in







MRS. WEBSTER GLYNES, LONDON  
(Formerly Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer of New York)

many lines of thought and work throughout the land. They were :

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, of Massachusetts; Mrs. J. C. Croly, Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, Mrs. M. L. Thomas, Mrs. S. C. Hoffman, of New York; Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indiana; Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, of New Jersey; Mrs. Driscoll, of Minnesota; Miss Sarah E. Doyle, of Rhode Island; Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, of Illinois; Mrs. C. R. Hall, of Pennsylvania; Miss Nobles, of Louisiana; Mrs. Putnam, of Michigan; with Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, of New York, as chairman.

Soon after the return of the delegates the New England Woman's Club decided not to ally itself with the movement for the federation at that time, which action removed Mrs. Howe from the committee.

At the first meeting of the federation committee, held the day following the convention, a smaller group was chosen for executive purposes. This was called the Advisory Board. The members chosen were :

Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer,  
Mrs. M. Louise Thomas,  
Mrs. Sophia C. Hoffman,  
Mrs. Mary R. Hall,  
Mrs. Amelia K. Wing,  
Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown,  
Mrs. J. C. Croly.

Mrs. Clymer was chosen chairman, Mrs. Hoffman, treasurer, and Mrs. Croly, secretary, of this Board.

The Advisory Board began their work at once. During the year there were held thirteen meetings, at which drafts for a constitution were discussed; a states' correspondence committee was formed; correspondence was



opened with clubs and clubwomen; applications for membership were received; and a plan for organization, with constitution and recommendations, was adopted, submitted to, and approved by, the larger committee and made ready for the Ratification Convention, which was held April 23, 24, and 25, 1890, at the Scottish Rite Hall, Madison Avenue, New York City.

The invitation to the Ratification Convention was sent only to such clubs as had already applied for membership in the new General Federation of Women's Clubs. The wording of the invitation shows the intelligent work which had been done by the Advisory Board:

To the President of.....

Dear Madam — The first meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs will be held in the city of New York, at Scottish Rite Hall, Madison Avenue, corner of Twenty-ninth Street, April 23, 24, and 25.

Your club having applied for membership in the Federation, and having been accepted by the Advisory Board, is entitled, according to the provisional constitution, to send two representatives. You, as president of your club, will become vice president of the Federation, unless your club decide to elect another vice president.

A delegate may also be sent to report on the club work. Both representatives should be sent with full power to act for their club.

If your club can conveniently send but one representative, that one, either president or delegate, is requested to bring a short written report of club work. In case no representative can be sent, please send written report, to be read by some officer of the Federation.

Clubs which reported at the convention last March are requested to confine their forthcoming reports to the work of the past year.

Clubs which report for the first time at this convention will please give an account of organization and general plan of work.

Five minutes will be allowed to each report.

The Committee on Credentials will receive the delegates at Scottish Rite Hall on Wednesday, April 23, at 9.30 A.M.

At 10.30 the meeting will be called to order for the formal adoption of a constitution.

Adjournment, 12.30.

At 2 P.M. reports of delegates.

Eight P.M., short addresses.

Thursday, 10.30 A.M., election of officers.

Adjournment, 12.30.

Two P.M., reports of delegates.

Evening reception to delegates, given by Sorosis at Delmonico's.

Friday, 10.30 A.M., unfinished business and reports of delegates.

Adjournment, 12.30.

Two P.M., symposium on women's clubs; short papers on practical questions pertaining to club work, each paper to be followed by a discussion.

Adjournment.

This outline of program is subject to amendment.

Very truly yours,

ELLA DIETZ CLYMER, *Chairman.*

M. LOUISE THOMAS.

SOPHIA C. HOFFMAN, *Treasurer.*

MARY R. HALL.

AMELIA K. WING.

CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN.

J. C. CROLY, *Secretary.*

*Advisory Board.*

In reply to this invitation the states responded by sending delegates as follows:

From Massachusetts, seventeen; New York, ten;



Indiana, nine; Pennsylvania, four; California, three; Connecticut, three; Michigan, three; Illinois, two; Kansas, two; New Jersey, two; Ohio, two; Delaware, one; Louisiana, one; Missouri, one; North Dakota, one; Rhode Island, one; Tennessee, one. Sixty-three delegates in all, representing seventeen states.

Sorosis was again hostess and Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, in her dual capacity, as president of the hostess club and chairman of the Federation Committee, presided over the meetings. The reports from the various clubs represented, and the addresses upon subjects of club interest, prepared the assembled women for a full discussion of a provisional constitution, which was amended and adopted.\*

On the morning of the election day, three names were placed in nomination for president: Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, who had so ably conducted the sessions; Mrs. Jennie C. Croly, who as founder of both the hostess club and the new General Federation of Women's Clubs was considered as the natural candidate; and Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown. Mrs. Clymer and Mrs. Croly declined the honor and Mrs. Brown was elected by a unanimous vote. The other officers were:

Vice President, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Indiana.

Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary B. Temple, Tennessee.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York.

Treasurer, Mrs. Phœbe A. Hearst, California.

Auditor, Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods, Massachusetts.

In addition to these regular officers there were a large number who, by virtue of their offices as presidents of the various clubs represented, became, in ac-

\* See Part IV, Doc. II.

cordance with the newly adopted constitution and by-laws, vice presidents of the General Federation.\*

The Advisory Board was continued, and the following members were elected to serve in this capacity :

Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, of New Jersey ; Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, Mrs. J. C. Croly, Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, of New York ; Mrs. Fannie P. Palmer, of Rhode Island ; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, of Pennsylvania ; Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indiana ; Mrs. Harriett H. Robinson, of Massachusetts ; Mrs. Mabel Smith, of Long Island.

In this way the General Federation was launched with high hopes and aspirations. The women who were instrumental in bringing about this unification of world-wide activities among their own sex were women of prophetic vision. Nor was this vision without its foundation in fact and in reality. Twenty-two years had passed since the men of New York had predicted the early demise of the new movement, and those twenty-two years had marked a steady advance along lines, not alone of self-culture, but of civic and national usefulness.

To this first convention of clubs had come women from every quarter of the land, drawn, not by curiosity nor by the love of personal pleasure nor the greed for personal gain, but by an inner consciousness, although but dimly expressed, that there was great work for them to do. There had come wives, mothers, householders, women of reputable standing in church, community and state, whose womanly instincts had aroused in them an intelligent concern in the great responsibilities and duties, as well as in the privileges, of life. These women, feeling the changes wrought in the economic world

\* See Part IV, Doc. II.



about them — changes which were heaping high the burdens upon man's shoulders while giving to woman more leisure time, in answer to the cry which was growing louder and louder each year, — banded themselves together for service, the extent of which was but faintly realized even by the most active and earnest leaders.

## PART II

### THE BIENNIAL PERIODS





## THE FIRST BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### INCREASED LOYALTY AND MEMBERSHIP

THE interim between the Ratification Convention in New York and the first Biennial Convention, held at Chicago, May 11-13, 1892, shows a marked advance in loyalty and a steady increase of membership in the General Federation.

The first problem which the Advisory Board had to consider was obviously that of getting before the clubs of the country information regarding the work and aims of the General Federation. To accomplish this end the *Woman's Cycle*, edited by Mrs. Croly, was used as the official organ of the Board and widely circulated; articles were inserted in newspapers known to be friendly to the new organization; one or two leaflets bearing upon the aims and purposes of the General Federation were issued; addresses were made at club gatherings; and a vast amount of personal correspondence was undertaken by each member of the Board. These efforts brought quick response, and the spread of enthusiasm all over the country was manifest in the many letters of inquiry and encouragement, as well as by the numerous applications for membership which were received.

The necessity of enlisting earnest workers had sug-



gested the plan of naming as a vice president of the General Federation the president of each club holding membership therein. These vice presidents were urged to take up with their clubs the subject of federation and to offer such suggestions and advice as might seem to give character and stability to the movement and to increase its usefulness to the clubs.

Another plan for the distribution of responsibility and the increase of membership was the appointment of State Chairmen of Correspondence. It was recognized that each state and locality had conditions and problems peculiar to itself, and it was clearly understood that these conditions and problems would be best known and treated by the women of the immediate vicinity. The plan which was adopted, after much deliberation and some experiment, was to allow the largest federated clubs in a given state to name a chairman of correspondence for that state. The name of such chairman was, however, to be subjected to the approval of the Advisory Board before final appointment. This chairman, when appointed, was allowed to choose her own committee and was held responsible for the proper care of her own territory.

The success of this plan proved most gratifying. It brought a large number of able women, the finest flower of the various states, into coöperation with each other and with the officers of the General Federation.

In April, 1891, the *Woman's Cycle* published a directory of clubs in which for the first time there appeared a complete list of the officers and Advisory Board of the General Federation, the Chairmen of State Correspondence, and the federated clubs by states.



MRS. CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN





## COUNCIL MEETING AT EAST ORANGE, N.J.

In May, 1891, a Council Meeting was called at East Orange, N.J., by invitation of the Orange Woman's Club. The purpose of the Council Meeting, as stated by the president, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, was to hear from the representatives of the different federated clubs any suggestions or recommendations they might have to make, to consider proposed changes in the constitution and to provide for the appointment of committees to act with the Advisory Board in making out a program for the Biennial Meeting to be held in Chicago in 1892.

The composition of this Council was most democratic, since each president of a federated club, either in person or by written message, became a member of it, and thus each club was permitted a share in the deliberations of the Council Meeting and, through recommendations submitted to the Biennial Convention, of the entire body of the General Federation itself.

Much earnest work was considered at this meeting; proposed amendments to the constitution were taken up, and it was decided to recommend to the next Biennial Convention that the name of the Advisory Board be changed to Board of Directors; that such Board should consist of the six officers of the General Federation, and five additional members who should also be officers of the Federation and members of the Council; that the entire Board should be elected by the Biennial Convention; and that not more than one third of this Board should be changed at any one Biennial.

These recommendations were favorably acted upon by the following Convention, with the exception that,



in place of five additional members, the delegates at Chicago determined upon nine, making the number of the entire Board of Directors fifteen.

It is also worthy of note that while at this time and until the Louisville Biennial in 1896, Article IV of the Constitution plainly states that, "clubs applying for membership in the General Federation must show that no sectarian or political test is required and that while distinctly humanitarian movements may be recognized, their chief purpose is not philanthropic or technical, but social, literary, artistic or scientific culture," nevertheless in response to a call at the Council Banquet, held at the home of Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, Mrs. Croly gave the most stirring call to broader activities and finer civic spirit. "The eagerness with which the women's clubs all over the country have taken up history, literature, and art studies, striving to make up for absence of opportunity and the absorption in household cares of their young womanhood, has in it something almost pathetic. But this ground will soon be covered. Is there not room in the clubs for outlook committees, whose business it should be to investigate township affairs, educational, sanitary, reformatory, and all lines of improvement, and report what is being done, might be done, or needs to be done, for decency and order in the jails, in the schools, in the streets, in the planting of trees, in the disposition of refuse, and the provision for light which is the best protection for life and property?"

If Mrs. Croly could have lived to have known the General Federation twenty years later, she would have seen a response in practical civic and welfare work which would have exceeded the most sanguine hope of even so brave and intrepid a soul as hers.

The interest aroused by the Council Meeting spread rapidly and widely. The officers of the Federation were besieged with questions concerning club methods, meetings and programs. Publicity seems to have been the thing most dreaded in those early days. The women who made up the club membership were unaccustomed to seeing their names in print, and most of the early yearbooks were without names and addresses of members.

A notable theme in the early correspondence between officers and club workers was the relation of the press to the club. A very noticeable feature of club life at this time was its exclusiveness. Since the club existed in the vast majority of cases simply for self-culture, there was a manifest desire to keep out of membership and out of the club audience all who might represent alien interests. Thus we find that some of the most able women advocated the exclusive club and strongly objected to the presence of newspaper reporters at club meetings, as well as to printed newspaper reports of their deliberations. No less a person than Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, whose wise counsels have ever been held in highest esteem by clubwomen, stated at the first Biennial that the "club is a larger home, and we wish to have the immunities and defences of home, and therefore we do not wish the public present, even by its attorney, the reporter."

At this time cards of introduction were indorsed by the Board of Directors to be used by club members when visiting neighboring clubs. These introduction cards secured for their possessors the privilege of entry and the enjoyment of the many courtesies of the hostess club and proved to be a great incentive, as well as a



useful medium of club intercourse.\* They enabled clubwomen from one part of the country, when visiting in another part, to be naturally and gracefully invited to attend, as guests, some regular meeting or meetings of federated clubs wherever they might be.

In an address upon the subject of Women's Congresses which were to be a part of the attractions of the Columbian Exposition, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, vice president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the World's Fair, treated of the significance of this first Biennial as follows :

"The two great factors of modern civilization are coöperation and centralization. The greatest proof of this truth is the fact of this meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The value of one person's mind or one person's work is steadily diminishing ; it is the associate mind, the many hearts beating as one, that now move the world ; and this is so well understood by women that they are rapidly learning what can be accomplished in economic, social and intellectual life by the power of an educated public opinion. And such a gathering as this is a tremendous power for good, reaching out all over the land.

"Women have achieved much during the past forty years of the world's history, and they are rapidly adapting themselves to new avenues of employment and boldly entering the new paths of knowledge ; not alone in America, but also in England and on the Continent — even from Turkey and the Orient — come to us voices on the breeze, inarticulate, it is true, but expressing the divine discontent which is the forerunner of freedom, of equality and of fraternity.

"Society is awakening to the truth that no one nation has spoken the last words of wisdom and national prejudices are disappearing. The willingness to learn, one of another, is ever on the increase. In these inter-

\* See Part IV, Doc. III.

national conferences we shall learn each others' needs and necessities, participate by sympathy in the victories which have been won and aid by our words of encouragement the battles yet to be fought. These congresses will be especially valuable to women, for they have to adjust themselves to an entirely new point of view as regards their political, social, economic and spiritual life."

#### FIRST BIENNIAL CONVENTION — CHICAGO

The first Biennial Convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs was held at Chicago, Illinois, May 11-13, 1892. The Palmer House was selected as headquarters and large numbers were located there, although the Chicago clubwomen entertained many of the delegates in their own homes. There was a large attendance at this meeting, since it had become known that all clubwomen, whether delegates or otherwise, could attend the meetings, and cars had been chartered by clubs, both East and West, thus bringing to Chicago a far greater number of clubwomen than had previously assembled at any one place. The delegate body numbered two hundred and ninety-seven, the membership at this time including one hundred and eighty-five clubs, located in twenty-nine different states.

The program dealt largely with subjects touching the intimate life and management of clubs and the interrelation of club and federation. Noticeable among the subjects which aroused much discussion were the comparative value of large and small clubs; limited membership; departmental clubs; the miscellaneous *versus* the correlated program; the value of extemporaneous speaking; and philanthropic work for clubs.



Considering the great strides which the Federation in later years has made along all lines of philanthropic or social service work, the opinion of the early clubworkers becomes of the greatest interest. At the first Biennial it was the almost unanimous decision that clubs should adhere to the purpose of intellectual development and recreation, and that the club should serve as a "resting place" from the regular absorbing activities of life. The report of the committee by whom the discussion upon club methods was arranged contains the significant statement that "Philanthropic work has its basis in the collection of funds, and in a woman's club the monetary obligation should begin and end with the payment of the annual dues." The educating of public opinion as the only permanent basis for welfare work seems not at that time to have become a part of the inner consciousness of the average General Federation worker.

The program included also a session on parliamentary law and practice immediately preceding the discussion and revision of the constitution and by-laws; an able presentation of the part which women were then taking in the Columbian Exposition; an open session upon "Helps and Hindrances in the Organized Work of Women"; and an evening symposium upon educational problems, in which Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, Mrs. May Wright Sewall and other notable women took part.

A careful study of the report of that first Biennial shows most clearly the educational value of Women's Clubs in the earlier days of the movement. This value to the individual was summed up in an address by Mrs. Jennie de la M. Lozier under five heads: "It gives to

woman first, a sense of individuality; second, some conception of true democracy; third, sympathetic understanding; fourth, a development of the judicial faculty; fifth, a power of expression. In other words, the early club life may be said to have laid the foundation necessary for the proper development of that civic power with which organized womanhood should in the twentieth century prove its usefulness."

A nominating committee, of which one delegate from each club was a member, brought in the following list of officers, who were unanimously elected :

President, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, East Orange, New Jersey.

Vice President, Mrs. Julia Plato Harvey, Chicago, Illinois.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York, New York.

Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary B. Temple, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Treasurer, Mrs. Jane O. Cooper, Denver, Colorado.

Auditor, Mrs. Harriett H. Robinson, Malden, Massachusetts.

The Board of Directors were: Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, Illinois; Miss Octavia W. Bates, Michigan; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Massachusetts; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Pennsylvania; Miss Katherine Nobles, Louisiana; Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, Rhode Island; Miss May Rogers, Iowa; Mrs. McDonald Ketcham, Indiana; Mrs. Cordelia C. Sterling, Missouri.

The *Chicago Inter-Ocean*, in commenting upon this first Biennial, said :

"Chicago may count herself honored in this extraordinary gathering of notable women, the like of which



was never seen here before. We have had women's conventions without number, and have seen conferences of women for the discussion of every subject under the sun; but this is the first time we have ever had an assembly of hundreds of gifted women with no special reform to agitate, but representative of all that is best in the moral-intellectual estimate of, and incentive to, human progress. In this concourse we see an emphatic and comprehensive demonstration of the aphorism that this is woman's century, since it is impossible to study the faces in which the animation of high ideals, resolute purpose, and mental culture defines the purest beauty without experiencing the conviction that the uplifting and on-sending of the race of man in the individual, and of mankind in the mass, is no more the work of sex than it is of sect, and that in the great domain of life, woman is coequal and coördinate with man."

## THE SECOND BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### FIRST STATE FEDERATIONS

THE year immediately following the Chicago Biennial marked the admission of new clubs, and a continued effort, on the part of all officers and State Chairmen of Correspondence, to spread the Federation spirit among clubwomen. Preparation was also made for a Council Day at the Congress of Women to be held at the Columbian Exposition, or World's Fair, in Chicago, in the spring of 1893.

Most encouraging reports of the cordial reception of the federation idea were received from all directions. Not only had new clubs come into membership with the General Federation, but clubs in the various states were uniting into state federations. Indiana had her Union of Literary Clubs, which, while it could not be called strictly a woman's organization since the delegate body included both men and women, was nevertheless a direct result of the inspiration of the Sorosis' Birthday Celebration at which the General Federation idea had birth. The Indiana Union held its first meeting in June, 1890.

The credit of having formed the first state federation of strictly women's clubs must be accorded to Maine.\* After her return from the Council Meeting at Orange, New Jersey, Mrs. Eunice N. Frye of Portland succeeded

\* See Part IV, Doc. XIII.



in arousing such enthusiasm among the clubwomen of her state that steps were taken to form a state association. These plans were so successful that in September of the following year (1892) the Maine Federation was formed with ten organizations as charter members. In Utah where clubs were few in number and the need of coöperation correspondingly great, the federation idea took firm hold, and in April, 1893, a state federation was formed. But neither Maine nor Utah took immediate steps to join the General Federation, and in the meantime Iowa was astir with an even greater enthusiasm. In December, 1892, a State Board of Club Fellowship and Reciprocity was established, which led naturally to the formation of a state federation in April, 1893. At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the General Federation, held May 19, 1893, immediately following the Council Meeting, the Iowa Federation of forty-five clubs was admitted, the first state federation to join the parent organization.

Between the Chicago Biennial and the Chicago Council but one meeting was held by the Board of Directors, upon which occasion a committee upon foreign correspondence was named with Miss Octavia W. Bates of Michigan as chairman. Plans were also made for the Council program and a committee was appointed to arrange for club exhibits at the World's Fair.

#### CLUB EXHIBITS AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

May 18, 1893, was the day of the Council Meeting, and thirty-one states, comprising twenty-eight clubs with a membership of fully twenty thousand women, were represented by delegates and other members. Without

doubt the location of this Council Meeting was an added attraction, but it is certain that no more notable gathering of American women had ever previously been assembled. There were Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, the two greatest women of Massachusetts; Mrs. Caroline M. Severance of California, affectionately termed the "Mother of Clubs"; Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone of Michigan, pioneer in every good work for the advancement of woman; Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, the great kindergarten worker of the Pacific Coast; and hundreds of other women, whose names were inseparably associated with the onward march of civilization at that time.

The material exhibit, the first of its kind in club history, well deserved the attention which it received, not alone from visiting clubwomen, but from the public at large. There were pictures of club officers, club houses, club emblems and club flowers; some were the product of the photographer's art, while others showed the artistic talent of the club members themselves. The club yearbooks were of the utmost interest. Here for the first time it was possible to see the work which other clubs were undertaking; and many clubwomen went back to their home clubs with a new and strong determination to attempt better and more ambitious work than before, due to the fact that other courageous souls had left an unconscious imprint hidden between the covers of the manual which formed a part of this unique exhibit. There were manuscripts showing to the interested passerby the paths over which certain clubs had traveled and arrived at this memorable year. One hundred and fifty-six clubs responded to the call for that first material exhibit. One hundred and fifty-six



women's clubs and one men's club sent tangible evidence of their interest and coöperation.

The Council, under the formal title, "Department Congress of the General Federation of Women's Clubs," was held in Department Hall, No. VII, of the Memorial Art Palace at Chicago. The opening address was made by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, vice president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Columbian Exposition.

The morning session was devoted to reports of directors and committee chairmen and to the presentation and discussion of (a) the Value of State Federation; (b) the Philadelphia Biennial; (c) the Federation Organ. Mrs. Jennie de la M. Lozier, reporting for the committee on the Federation Pin, stated that Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown and Mrs. Jennie C. Croly had previously chosen blue as the Federation color; the dawn, with the sun's rays, as the symbol; and "Unity in Diversity" as the motto. It therefore only remained for the committee to obtain a design and put it into form that would be satisfactory and within the reach of all clubwomen. Four thousand pins had already been sold. This pin has been used during the ensuing years of existence of the General Federation and has been accepted as the official badge, although no record appears to show that the design was in reality indorsed by either the Convention or the Board of Directors of the General Federation.

In the discussion of the program the *Cycle* as the General Federation organ was warmly praised and action was taken directing the Board of Directors to appoint a committee of energetic women to assist in the work of securing subscriptions from clubwomen in each state.

Mrs. Harriet W. Shattuck's "Manual of Parliamentary Law" was highly recommended, and the question of a Federation flower was discussed, but no definite action was taken upon either matter. State federations were approved most heartily and their formation warmly encouraged.

The Chicago Woman's Club was hostess in the afternoon at a reception to all visiting clubwomen. The evening program treated of the results of club life among women upon (1) Society, (2) The Home, (3) Public Life, (4) as a Means of Intellectual Growth. Following the above the Dangerous Tendencies of Club Life and Individual Responsibilities were dwelt upon in most excellent addresses.

Immediately following the adjournment of the Second Council, the Board of Directors held a two-days session, during which the resignation of Mrs. M. D. Ketcham of Indiana, from the Board of Directors was accepted, and Miss Mary D. Steele of Ohio was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The subject of the club organ, referred by the Council, was brought up. The *Cycle*, which had been adopted by the Advisory Board to assist them in their early efforts of propaganda, had been superseded for a short time by the *Homemaker*, of which Mrs. Croly seems also to have been the editor. At this time the *New Cycle* was the subject of consideration, and it received very substantial encouragement in the appointment of a committee from the Board to organize a company and issue stock for its continuance, the committee being also authorized to appoint subcommittees to promote in every way possible the interests, both literary and financial, of the magazine.



The place and date of the second Biennial was determined upon and a Biennial Committee appointed. A change was made in the method of appointing the State Chairmen of Correspondence, the nominating power being thereafter placed with the state delegate body at the Biennial.

A new and enlarged directory, to be printed in pamphlet form, was authorized. This directory gave names and addresses of both presidents and secretaries and included statement of departments of work undertaken by the clubs. A list of clubs belonging to state federations and a group of clubs belonging to the General Federation were to be appended to the list of those holding direct individual membership.

#### SECOND BIENNIAL CONVENTION — PHILADELPHIA

The second Biennial Convention was held in the clubhouse of the New Century Club of Philadelphia, May 9, 10, and 11, 1894. The Secretary's report showed a membership of four state federations and three hundred and fifty individual clubs. In addition to the American clubs three foreign countries were represented, Ceylon, India and South Australia.

It was a matter of congratulation to all present that the meetings were held in a building, designed by a woman, built and managed by women, and devoted entirely to the interest of the clubwomen by whose invitation the assemblage had gathered. Clubs from Indianapolis, Indiana; Grand Rapids and Lansing, Michigan; Quincy, Illinois; and Wilmington, Delaware reported that material results of the Woman's Club Movement were shown in each home city by the erection of

clubhouses. It was also reported that the women's clubs in one town had been instrumental in establishing a public library; in another, a hospital; in a third, a guild for working girls; in a fourth, a fine literary institute devoted to public use. From every side came reports of definite accomplishments, while all united in reporting the greatest work, far beyond any material results, to be the breaking down of ancient prejudice and the bringing together of women of all shades of personal opinion and all degrees of social standing and individual capacity. For the first time in the history of the world women had begun to stand together upon the basis of a common kinship, a universal womanhood.

The address \* of the President, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, was a most remarkable message, coming from a woman into whose hands had been intrusted the great work of laying a foundation upon which was to be reared an enduring structure. It is well to give more than a passing word in commendation of the work of this woman, who had rendered to the membership of the General Federation and to all who should come after them so great a service and who, within a few months, was to lay aside all earthly cares and join the innumerable throng who, having finished their work, have entered into rest. Like the winners of the ancient race, who passed to their successors the brightly burning torch, so did Charlotte Emerson Brown pass on to her successors a work whose kindled flame will burn with ever increasing brightness throughout all succeeding generations. The closing words of her farewell address will go down in the annals of the General Federation like the benediction of a great soul, "As I have committed this

\* See Part IV, Doc. IV.



work to divine guidance a thousand times, so again I commit it here, and now; may God's blessing be upon it and upon us all."

The first morning session of the Biennial was given over to reports of officers and standing committees and the afternoon session was filled with reports of State Chairmen of Correspondence. Among the latter was Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone of Michigan, pioneer worker for the cause of woman throughout the land. In the evening a reception was tendered to all visiting clubwomen by the members of the New Century Club. The new clubhouse was thrown open, and the representatives of hundreds of clubs were able to see what enterprise and business ability of clubwomen might accomplish.

The morning of the second day was the occasion of a business session and the continuation of reports by State Chairmen of Correspondence. The afternoon session was filled with three-minute discussions upon the Ideal Club and How to Attain It. The discussion was conducted under the following subdivisions: Comparison of club methods; value; how obtained; literary standards in club work; originality; extemporaneous speaking; parliamentary law and business methods; profitable club studies; classes; inside work and outside lectures; benevolent and philanthropic work; large and small clubs; limitation of members; mixed clubs; best methods of electing club officers; what should be done with the waiting list; clubhouses; club dues; committees and committee work.

The evening session was held in the Academy of Music and the following subjects were presented: (a) The New Social Force; (b) Daughters of Sorosis; (c) What Women's Clubs should do for Mankind; (d) Individual

Responsibility; (e) Women in Municipal Affairs; (f) Democracy in Women's Clubs; (g) What the Woman demands of the Newspaper; and (h) Club Courtesies and Discourtesies. These subjects were ably handled and showed the growth of the club movement.

An interesting feature of the following morning's program was a comprehensive letter from Dr. E. Brainard-Ryder describing the club interest of women in India and Australia, which, although hampered on every side by local conditions, was spreading with hopeful rapidity.

Among the resolutions there was one introduced by Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson to the effect that the General Federation declare its belief that one standard is equally binding upon man and woman, and that immorality that debars one from public and social life should also debar the other. This resolution aroused much favorable comment and was passed unanimously.

Some question of making the General Federation a member of the National Council of Women having previously arisen, it was decided that the General Federation, being a sovereign and international body, was ineligible to membership in the National Council.

At this time the following letter from W. D. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, was read :

Washington, D.C., April 28, 1894.

Department of the Interior,

Bureau of Education,

MRS. J. C. CROLY, Editor of *New Cycle*,

DEAR MADAM :

Your letter of the 27th inst. is received together with the three numbers of the *New Cycle*, for which I thank you heartily. I shall take the liberty of printing the



list of federated clubs in the coming number of my annual report, for I do not know of any instrumentality for the extension of schools and colleges to be compared with the institution of federated clubs. We shall subscribe for your *New Cycle* as soon as our funds become available for the coming year. It is a periodical that we cannot do without.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM D. HARRIS.

*Commissioner.*

The letter speaks for itself and was considered to be a most encouraging feature of the Biennial.

The election, held at the close of the afternoon session, May 11, resulted in the selection of the following officers :

President, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Chicago, Illinois.

Vice President, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Louisville, Kentucky.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, St. Louis, Missouri.

Treasurer, Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, San Francisco, California.

Auditor, Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board of Directors :

Mrs. Virginia F. Berryhill, Iowa.

Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, District of Columbia.

Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, New Jersey.

Mrs. Jennie C. Croly, New York.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Annie McKinney, Tennessee.

Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Maine.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon, Louisiana.

Miss Mary D. Steele, Ohio.

The list of Chairmen of Correspondence in the various states for 1894-1895 contained the following names :

Alabama — Miss Mary La F. Robbins.

Arkansas — Mrs. William C. Ratcliffe.

California, Nevada and Arizona — Mrs. Francis A. Eastman.

Ceylon — Mrs. M. M. Higgins.

Colorado, Wyoming and Montana — Mrs. T. H. Moore.

Indiana — Mrs. Grace Julian Clarke.

Iowa — Mrs. J. H. Windsor.

Kansas and Oklahoma — Mrs. Mary C. Todd.

Kentucky — Mrs. M. A. Scoville.

Louisiana and Mississippi — Miss Marion Brown.

Maine — Mrs. George C. Frye.

Connecticut — Mrs. Elizabeth R. Abbot.

Delaware — Mrs. Emalea P. Warner.

District of Columbia — Mrs. E. M. S. Marble.

Georgia — Miss Rosa L. Woodberry.

Illinois — Mrs. Clara P. Bourland.

India — Dr. Emma Brainerd Ryder.

Rhode Island — Miss Katherine H. Allen.

South Dakota — Mrs. Josephine M. Glidden.

South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida — Miss Mary B. Temple.

Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia — Mrs. W. D. Beard.

Texas — Miss C. J. Lingo.

Utah — Mrs. C. S. Kinney.

Vermont — Mrs. Elisha May.

Washington — Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes.



Wisconsin — Mrs. Charles S. Morris.  
Maryland — Mrs. J. C. Wrenshall.  
Massachusetts — Mrs. Alice I. Breed.  
Michigan — Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone.  
Minnesota — Mrs. Cornelia Baxter.  
Missouri — Mrs. Laura E. Scammon.  
Nebraska — Mrs. Elizabeth J. Lindsey.  
New Jersey — Mrs. Florence Howe Hall.  
New Hampshire — Mrs. Lilian C. Streeter.  
New York — Mrs. Frances A. Goodale.  
North Dakota — Mrs. J. P. Clapp.  
Ohio — Mrs. E. L. Buchwalter.  
Pennsylvania — Mrs. Charles F. Wade.  
Oregon — Mrs. C. B. Wade.

An evening's program was composed of a series of addresses by notable women among whom were Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard Thompson and others.

The closing feature of the Biennial was the presentation to the convention of the new President. In performing the introduction, the retiring president said: "Mrs. Charles Henrotin, President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, now of Chicago, but henceforth from wherever the Federation shall extend its helping hand for woman's culture as a condition of the world's advancement."

Upon taking the chair, Mrs. Henrotin outlined briefly her plans for the organization. She spoke of the splendid work already accomplished, the foundation of the General Federation and the formation of state federations as of the greatest value to the parent organization. She said: "Every permanent inspiration must be born

from within. This it is which will make the cumulative momentum of the ideal federated force. The larger will give to the smaller, breadth; the smaller to the larger, intensity. The work of the Federation is to create a healthy public sentiment. The world's greatest benefactors, therefore, are the molders of its thought. All honor to those who have the courage to band in that movement, whose soul and whose life is thought. By them shall public opinion be directed to the ends of sacred progress. . . . The other organizations of women, of which there are many, represent each a single cause; the Federation represents the sum and soul of all causes, the home and society. . . . The realization of the ideal in our club life, as in our home life, will be found in embodying the principle of which the Federation is the symbol — the highest personality of the individual, to give unity; the freest coöperation, to give diversity; in unity and diversity combined, the perfect whole."

The second Biennial was adjourned, and those present went back to their several homes filled with wonder and respect for the strides which had been made in the past four years. It is true that as yet the Federation was inclusive and that emphasis had been laid over and over, during the sessions, upon the value of self-culture. Only the faintest whisper of social service had been borne in upon the assembly and that only from some old and experienced club workers. But great results had in reality been accomplished. Many were there who would gladly have testified to the change wrought in themselves, so ably set forth by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe: "What did the club life give me? Understanding of my own sex; faith in its moral and intellectual growth.



Like so many others, I saw the cruel wrongs and vexed problems of our social life, but I did not know that hidden away in its own midst was a reserved force destined to give precious aid in the righting of wrongs, and in the solution of discords. In the women's clubs I found the immense power which sympathy exercises in bringing out the best aspirations of the woman nature. . . . To guard against dangers, we must do our utmost to uphold and keep in view the high object which has, in the first instance, called us together; and let this be no mere party catchword or cry, as East against West or North against South. We can afford to meet as citizens of one common country, and to love and serve the whole as one."

At this Biennial Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard Thompson of Michigan, urged the establishment of a Reciprocity Bureau which should serve as a medium of exchange between the clubs, and would be an incentive to the production of good literary work, besides stimulating quick recognition.

The encouraging letter from the United States Commissioner; the presence of some of the ablest women of the country who worked with, recognized and helped to develop the women to whom every hour of the Biennial had brought new and strange experiences; the banding together of womanhood under wise and noble leadership,—these things were giving, albeit unconsciously, the only possible foundation for a permanent organization which should, a little later on, make its influence felt in every avenue of life and service.







MRS. ELLEN M. HENROTIN

## THE THIRD BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### FEDERATION OF FEDERATIONS

THE Biennial period following the Philadelphia Convention was one of great activity in the formation of state federations. The new president, Mrs. Henrotin, came into office fresh from the important work which she had performed as vice president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the International Exposition at Chicago in 1893. She had been the acting president of those remarkable congresses of women, of which there had been two hundred and ten, with nearly twelve hundred sessions and, almost without exception, she had addressed each of these brilliant gatherings upon matters which included a world-wide range of subjects.

Her predecessor in office in the General Federation of Women's Clubs had been a woman gifted in matters of organization, and she had passed on to Mrs. Henrotin an already remarkable federation of clubs. Under the new régime, the General Federation was to become, not only a federation of clubs, but a federation of federations.

At the close of the Philadelphia Biennial four states were organized into federations: Maine, Iowa, Utah and Massachusetts. State federations were still an experiment and many fears had been expressed regarding their possible effect upon the future of the parent



body. Mrs. Henrotin recognized the value of state organizations and proceeded at once to assist in their development. In order to facilitate this work as much as possible, a letter was addressed to each State Chairman of Correspondence asking her to send to the Corresponding Secretary of the General Federation her views on state federation. The replies were so unanimous in the opinion that such organizations were advisable, and coöperation was so readily secured that as early as December, 1894, the *Cycle* reported new state federations in Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Ohio. In this list Nebraska should be included, since the federation in that state was organized in December, 1894. District of Columbia, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Vermont followed the example set for them by these states and established state federations in time to report at the next Biennial.

Immediately following the adjournment of the Philadelphia Biennial a three-days meeting of the Board of Directors was held, upon which occasion a committee of three, consisting of the President, Mrs. James G. Berryhill and Mrs. Samuel McKinney, was appointed to transact routine business, to fill vacancies among Chairmen of State Correspondence, and to admit undoubtedly eligible clubs, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer was authorized to pay mileage and sleeping car rates incurred by the Board of Directors in attending one meeting a year. A small sum of money was appropriated for clerical assistance for the President. State chairmen were appointed for several states and

the purchase of twelve hundred copies of the *Cycle* for free distribution was authorized.

All matters pertaining to the Federation Pin were delegated to the care of Mrs. Brown, and the appointment of a new Committee on Foreign Correspondence was left to the President.

A second meeting of the Board of Directors was held October 15, 1894, in St. Louis, Missouri, at which discussion centered upon the following subjects: (a) State and City Federation; (b) Foreign Correspondence; (c) Duties of State Chairmen of Correspondence; (d) Formation of New Clubs; (e) Conduct of Biennial of 1896; and other matters of general interest.

After consideration of the successful federations already organized and the benefits derived from state federations, as well as the powerful influence of city federations, the Board went upon record as approving the formation of state federations and urged that such organization should cover the entire state in each case.

A committee of three was appointed to formulate the duties of the State Chairmen of Correspondence and to prepare rules to assist new clubs in organizing.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, through the President, reported correspondence with clubs in Australia and India, speaking at length of the valuable work of Mrs. Potter Palmer among Oriental women. The fact was brought out that European workers had invited their American colaborers to assist them; and the immense field opening up, a world wakening to the movement, was commented upon. At the close of this verbal report, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown was appointed Chairman of Foreign Correspondence.



Other matters of miscellaneous business were: (1) The appointment of a committee to revise the constitution and by-laws, and each member of the Board was required to make to this committee suggestions of such changes as seemed to her wise and helpful; (2) the authorization of a history of the Woman's Club Movement to be written by Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown; and (3) the preparation of certain formulæ of instruction to committees of arrangement for the next Biennial. The plans of the Board looking toward the preparation of the History were interrupted by the death in February, 1895, of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, first President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and, at the time of her death, a most valued member of the Board of Directors. The General Federation was represented at the funeral by Mrs. Jennie C. Croly of the Board of Directors and a committee consisting of Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Mrs. Philip N. Moore were appointed to draw up the following memorial:

"In the death of Charlotte Emerson Brown the womanhood of the country has lost a leader, a teacher, a friend.

"As first President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Brown rendered great service to the association in its infancy. By unremitting attention to its business she was able to build up for it a large and influential constituency, while her wise and discriminating judgment was exerted always to bring forward the better reasons and the better measures. Her good faith, sincerity, and devotedness of purpose were only equaled by her gracious manner and sympathetic disposition. In her were combined qualities which are rarely united in one person.

"Her fellow officers feel that she has won for herself

an enduring place in the love and gratitude of the General Federation, and they unite in expressing heartfelt sorrow and sympathy to the husband and family so suddenly bereaved."

Letters were addressed by Mrs. Henrotin to all clubs holding membership in the General Federation, announcing the death of Mrs. Brown and requesting letters of condolence. These letters were sent to Dr. William E. Brown, husband of Charlotte Emerson Brown, in a white morocco case upon the lid of which were these words, "Her children rise up and call her blessed."

#### IMPORTANCE OF CIVICS AND SOCIAL ECONOMICS IN WOMEN'S CLUBS

In April, 1895, a very significant departure was made by the Social Economics Department in a symposium, which appeared in the *Cycle* in April, 1895, upon the following questions:

"What importance do you attach to the study of civics and social economics in women's clubs?"

"Would you have clubs limited to study and discussion of these subjects, or would you advise that they endeavor, by education and active coöperation, to promote a higher public spirit and a better social order?"

Commenting upon the questions Mrs. Henrotin said:

"Departments of civics and social economics should be a part of all club work and study classes. The clubs which have been organized within the last two years differ from those at first formed in this: the membership of the new clubs is very large; some are over a hundred, and several have started with three or four hundred and a waiting list. Such clubs naturally divide up into departments, and at once begin municipal or other work. The state federations, which are being



so rapidly inaugurated, will each adopt one branch of practical work. The social life of the place, whether city or country, should be enlarged and the tone elevated, for the woman's club is the most democratic of institutions, and therefore a strong social factor."

Mrs. Mary E. Mumford wrote :

"When the General Federation of Women's Clubs was first organized, it was found that clubs in all parts of the country (though primarily intended for literary culture) had extended their studies to civic affairs. Many of them had also begun to concern themselves with the welfare of the communities to which they belonged, and the very first delegates' reports showed that practical results were already in evidence.

"The attention of the women seems to have been turned first toward the needs of children, and in many towns they brought to lagging school boards a knowledge of the newer thought in education. They advocated manual training (tool work for boys, sewing and cooking for girls), while their encouragement of kindergarten gave a valuable impulse to that foundation principle of child training.

"Such important work was not begun to be lightly laid aside. The great movement toward municipal housecleaning and housekeeping is to find a steady propelling force in the woman's club."

An invitation to hold a Federation Day at the Atlanta Cotton Exposition was accepted, and a committee consisting of Mrs. McKinney, Mrs. Berryhill and Mrs. Saxon were appointed. It was later decided to empower the President to act with this committee if necessary.

Before the meetings were adjourned it was decided to invite the State Chairmen of Correspondence to meet with the Board at its next meeting to be held at Atlanta in November.







## NEW JERSEY CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

A short meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 1, 1895, just prior to the opening of the Federation Day exercises at the Atlanta Exposition. At this time the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Barnes, reported that the General Federation of Women's Clubs had become incorporated with a charter under the laws of the state of New Jersey.\*

Time was allowed for the discussion of the proposed revision of the by-laws; and the State Chairmen of Correspondence, who had been invited to be present at this meeting, reported for their various states.

The growth of the General Federation as reported at this meeting showed four hundred and forty individual clubs and seventeen state federations.

The vacancy in the Board caused by the death of Mrs. Brown was filled by the appointment of Mrs. Sarah M. Johnson, of East Orange, New Jersey. The resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Saxon, of Louisiana, from the Board of Directors was tendered and accepted, and Miss Sophia B. Wright of New Orleans, Louisiana, was appointed to fill the vacancy. The resignation of Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer as Auditor was filled at a subsequent date by the appointment of Miss Annie Laws of Ohio.

## THE ATLANTA CONGRESS

In response to the invitation from the president of the Women's Department of the Cotton States and International Exposition, there met in Assembly Hall of the Woman's Building, November 1 and 2, 1895, the

\* See Part IV, Doc. V.



Atlanta Congress of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

This meeting afforded to clubwomen of the North, East, West and South an opportunity to see the great progress which had been made by the Southern States during the quarter century just passed, and this fact brought together an unusually large number of women. Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and other distant states sent representatives as well as the neighboring states of Arkansas, the Carolinas, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The Committees on Reciprocity and Correspondence reported as their completed work the preparation of programs of study on Social Service, Household Economics, American History and Literature, The New Education, Early English Literature, Children's Days, Reciprocity, Country Clubs, and the Traveling Library. These outlines, by authority given to the committees by the Board of Directors, had been printed and distributed among the federated clubs.

The program of the first day of the Congress contained the following subjects: (a) Address of Welcome and Response; (b) History of the Club Movement; (c) Southern Women in Organization Work; (d) Women in Education; (e) The Woman's Club as a Supplement to the Home; (f) The Woman's Club as a Social Factor; (g) The New Woman and the New Man; and (h) Advantages of Club Life for Southern Women.

The second session was a symposium upon Women's Clubs, the general subject being divided into the Liter-

ary Club, The Department Club, The Art Club, the Civic Club, The Working Girls' Club and The Benefits of State Federation; each subject was followed by spirited and helpful discussions.

Among the many excellent things said at the Congress, the definition of a civic club, given by Mrs. Mary E. Mumford of Pennsylvania, deserves special mention. In answer to the question, What is a civic club? she made the reply, "The woman who plants a tree and cleans the street in front of her door is a civic club of one. The woman who follows her child to school and demands sanitary conditions in the schoolroom, mental discipline and moral culture, is a civic club of one. When from the home and the school she begins to study the administration of all public charity and the principle of government, she is still a civic club of one. A number of such women banded together make a civic club."

Mrs. Lindon W. Bates in her address upon the office of literature emphasized the fact that the great element of literature is power and the use of literature is to create and preserve idealities.

A very pleasing feature of the opening of the Congress was the presenting to the President the use of a gavel bearing the inscription, "A piece of wood from the battlefield of Chickamauga," presented by the Atlanta Artillery through Governor Northern, 1895.

In her presentation speech Mrs. Hurd, President of the Georgia Sorosis, said: "It was shot into by both armies in an effort to dissolve the union of a great nation. Now it represents 'Unity in Diversity,' and it is most appropriate that it should be used on this occasion. The use of this gavel to-day adds another item of interest to its history, and Georgia Sorosis is much



honored by having it used by the distinguished and beloved President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs."

There were many courtesies extended to the visiting clubwomen by the ladies of the Board of the Women's Auxiliary, and the Congress adjourned with a feeling, shared by all, that the bond between the North and the South had been greatly strengthened and that the sessions of the Atlanta Congress had been helpful to all; and as a result there was a great quickening of interest in club extension throughout the South.

The history of the General Federation from the time of the Atlanta Congress to the Louisville Biennial in 1896 is largely a history of state organization.

Mrs. Henrotin spent almost the entire year in travel, visiting twenty-four states and fifty-one cities in the interest of federation; and at the opening of the Biennial the General Federation numbered four hundred and ninety-five individual clubs and twenty-one state federations with eight hundred clubs, giving a total individual membership in round numbers of one hundred thousand.

### THIRD BIENNIAL CONVENTION — LOUISVILLE

The third Biennial was held in Louisville, Kentucky, May 27, 28, and 29, 1896. It was the largest and most intensely in earnest of any gathering thus far in the life of the General Federation. Louisville had shown great interest in the preparations and the local committees represented every need of a great national assembly. The comfort and necessities of the visiting clubwomen were anticipated by efficient, courteous and reliable

groups of women from the hostess club. Many delightful Southern homes were opened to women from other sections of the country, and the hospitality of the South, hitherto known to many only by report, became a living, vital fact in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to attend.

The meetings were held in Macauley's Theatre. The delegates were seated under banners bearing the names of the states which they represented and visiting members were accommodated in the gallery and other unused parts of the theater.

The opening session was called to order by Mrs. C. P. Barnes, President of the Louisville Woman's Club and Recording Secretary of the General Federation. Mrs. Barnes introduced the Vice President of the Louisville Club, Mrs. Patty B. Semple, who made an address of welcome.

In closing her address Mrs. Semple presented to the General Federation a gavel of which she said :

"It is the wish of the Woman's Club of Louisville to make some expression of its appreciation of those services which it has shared with other clubs. We have selected as an appropriate medium this gavel, made from the wood of a tree of Ashland, one of the very trees, perhaps, under which Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln once walked and talked together. It may stand, then, as a symbol of this new union in which we rejoice, as you, Madam President, stand as the type of a nobler womanhood toward which we are all striving. We beg that you will use it during the meetings this week and keep it as a mark of our esteem. A modest offering to carry so great a weight, but you will remember the proverb that Theocritus has preserved for us, 'Surely great grace goes with a little gift, and all the offerings of friends are precious.'"



In replying to this gracious sentiment, Mrs. Henrotin expressed, on behalf of the General Federation and herself, appreciation of the gift :

“This gavel to preside over the Biennial comes to us typical of the thought of three men, and to us all here, women who owe so much to men, it is therefore doubly valuable. Mr. C. P. Barnes, husband of our Recording Secretary, whose thought it was to give me this souvenir, and who has passed away from us, was with us at the last Biennial. He took a great interest in all that interested his wife. A companionship in marriage and a community of interests where lives unite is shown in this tender thought for the Biennial of '96.

“The gavel was made by the husband of one who has contributed much to our comfort, Mrs. George Avery, and the work of Mr. Avery represents the labor of men by means of which so many of us are enabled to serve in brave altruistic movements. Their toil and their endeavor leave us free from that anxiety about our daily bread, and therefore we are enabled to devote time and strength to furthering the gentler humanity.

“The wood from Ashland, Henry Clay's home, seems singularly appropriate for the gavel of the Federation, whose motto, 'Unity in Diversity,' and whose field, always toward unity, is to-day controlled by the thought of him who was known as a great peacemaker. The policy of the Federation is beautifully voiced by him : 'I know no North, no South, no East, no West ; the Union is my country.'”

The President's address, which would naturally have been given at this time, had been printed and was distributed among the delegates to be taken home and read at leisure. It contained a most comprehensive review of the work of her administration and was full of excellent suggestions for future growth and development. The following passages show the breadth of vision and

depth of purpose which this address opened up before those in attendance at the Biennial :

“To women who live in cities the seeming monotony of life in country places is difficult to apprehend. A city woman needs her club, but to the country woman it is essential, for life with her seems in a groove and in danger of dropping into the personal on all questions because she is not in touch with the activities which are the power of life. The club takes the interest outside of the narrow individual life and brings it into unison with the community life, and through the state and General Federation the community life comes into unity with the national life. The suggestion of the Reciprocity Committee that women residing in market towns should open their clubrooms on market days for the benefit of the women who come into town, should have a comfortable and pleasant place in which these women could eat their lunch and prepare some entertainment for them, is an admirable one. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is the latest development of the movement of voluntary association which characterizes this century ; that voluntary subordination of the individual for the good of the whole ; that freedom under the law which is the highest development of the personality. . . . The General Federation also stands, not for the aristocracy of intellect and ethics, but for the republic of intellect and ethics ; its educational work is to raise the average standard of life and to broaden the social aims of the community, for a fine social life is the crown of all civilization. And it is pledged to accomplish this without arbitrary or antagonistic means ; in this great democracy it is what the individual freely wills that must conquer on the higher plane of politics, of education, of art and of religion, and to the non-aggressive and educational methods the Federation stands pledged by its motto, ‘Unity in Diversity.’

“It is animated by a profound conviction, ‘that all creation groaneth and travaileth together’ to attain that



unity, thus exemplifying Froebel's grand thought, 'All is unity, all rests in unity, all strives for and lives up to unity.'

"In a word, the Federation is the spontaneous expression of the activity within us — the one intelligence — God."

The report of the Recording Secretary showed the splendid service which she had rendered, aside from the regular routine of office, by collecting the records of the organization and classifying them for reference in four large volumes.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, set forth some enlightening as well as interesting statistics regarding the clubs holding membership in the General Federation; it was in part:

"The Federation numbered in May, 1894, three hundred and fifty-five clubs and four state federations. When the list was made out in December, 1894, there were four hundred and twelve clubs and eight state federations. When the list was completed in December, 1895, there were four hundred and forty-three clubs and sixteen state federations. At the present time there are four hundred and ninety-five clubs and twenty-one state federations, the latter including over eight hundred clubs.

"Many small clubs have withdrawn during these two years, finding it impossible to pay the dues to, and do the work in, both State and General Federation.

"These withdrawals have been only thirty in number, while the additions have been two hundred. This leaves the final statement four hundred and ninety-five clubs (individual) and twenty-one state federations (including about eight hundred clubs), giving a total individual membership in round numbers of one hundred thousand.

"Of our membership only fifty clubs are pursuing

purely literary lines of work. In the departments three hundred and seventy-one are interested in literary work, which includes art, science, philanthropy and kindred subjects; two hundred and thirty-two have enrolled under education, including practical work in kindergartens and schools; one hundred and seventy-four in philanthropy, theoretical and practical; one hundred and sixty-five are pursuing household economics in various lines; one hundred and sixty-three have taken social economics, as applied to the history and practical application of municipal and legislative work, with village improvement societies, etc.

"One hundred and nine have concerned themselves in financial life both privately and publicly, with management of club homes, etc. Three clubs have founded and maintained hospitals; four have established and supported public libraries; others support free kindergartens and women's exchanges."

The report also named as honorary members of the General Federation the following women of foreign lands, all well known in literary, educational and philanthropic work: Miss Florence Routledge, Woman's Trades Union League, London, England; Baroness Bertha von Suttner, Hermansdorf, Lower Austria; Mme. Isabella Bogelot, Directrice Générale de Saint Lazare, Paris; Lady Aberdeen, President National Council of Women, Ottawa, Canada; Mrs. Margaret P. Murray, President Women's Department Canadian Exposition, Montreal, Canada; Mme. Yakoot Sarruf, Cairo, Egypt; Lady Emilia Dilke, London; Fräulein Helene Lange, Victoria Institute, Berlin; Mrs. J. A. Galloway, Queen Margaret College, Glasgow; Countess de Denterghem, Brussels, Belgium.

In accordance with the plan prepared by the President, the work of the Biennial was carried on in depart-



ments and there were three meetings in session each morning at eleven o'clock.

The Department of Literature was conducted by Mrs. Florence Howe Hall and the first day's program was devoted to the study of history. The general subject was subdivided into a consideration of (a) The Study of Local History; (b) The Study of History by Periods; (c) The Work of Traveling Clubs in Connection with Historical Study; (d) The Study of Shakespeare's Historical Plays; (e) The Historical Novel and Drama as Interpreters of History; (f) Modern Criticism as applied to the Study of History.

The second day's program centered around poetry, music and art under the following heads: (a) The Second Part of Faust; (b) Discussion — Can we best attain to a true appreciation of the poet and his work by viewing him as a man like other men, or as one touched with the Divine fire? (c) The Place of Art in the Woman's Club of To-day; (d) The Message of Music; (e) The Development of the "German Lied."

The third day's meeting was a joint session of the Literature and Education Departments and various methods of both adult and juvenile education and literature were treated under the subjects: (a) The Love of Literature; how can it be promoted, and what is its effect upon the character? (b) The Teaching of Literature to Young Children; (c) Uses of Public and Traveling Libraries; (d) Uses of University Extension Lectures; (e) Influence of Literature on Character.

The meetings were largely attended and the addresses helpful and interesting.

The Department of Finance was under direction of a committee composed of Mrs. Edward Longstreth, chair-

man, Mrs. Cyrus Perkins and Mrs. L. L. Blankenburg. The first session was of the utmost value to the delegates from clubs considering the question of owning and managing clubhouses, and under the general subjects of clubhouses, stock companies and financial management of clubs, a full, thorough and comprehensive presentation of the whole phase of building, managing and conducting clubhouses was given by the representatives of some of the most successful clubs that had already solved the question of club homes. At this session there was presented but one paper which did not bear upon the general subject: Mrs. Helen Campbell presented the subject of Wages of Women Historically Considered. This address showed the master hand and presented an array of facts unknown to any save the student of the development and advancement of woman.

There were but two meetings of the Department of Finance, the second having for general topic, Women in Trades and Professions. The subdivisions under which this subject was considered were: (a) To-day's Woman; (b) Women in Law; (c) Women in Agriculture; (d) Women in Pharmacy; (e) Women as Authors; (f) Women as Teachers; (g) Women in Stenography; (h) Women as Nurses; (i) Women in Medicine; (j) Women as Engravers; (k) Women in Art; (l) Women in Banking; (m) Women in Architecture; (n) Women's Medical Alumnæ.

Each address was given by a woman entirely conversant with the branch of work assigned her for presentation. The treatment of the subjects was not alone from the point of success in each line of achievement but also from a remunerative and financial standpoint.



The Department of Philanthropy held two sessions, of which the first was devoted to the care of dependent children; and the second, held in conjunction with the Department of Social Economics, was given to the discussion of charitable endeavor and the opportunity which women's clubs had to improve the usefulness of public and private institutions.

Upon this occasion Mrs. Sarah S. Platt (now Decker) made a stirring address calling upon her audience to feel the value of the Woman's Club Movement upon social service work.

The Department of Education under the leadership of Mrs. Mary E. Mumford held one session independent of the Literary Department. The program was: (a) The Philosophy of the Kindergarten; (b) The Schools a Moral Factor in the Nation; (c) Relation of College to the Lower Schools. These papers were admirable and were followed by most helpful discussions.

The Department of Home presented the subjects of Household Economics, Physical Culture and the Social Aspects of Home Life. These papers were presented by women whose names have since become familiar in both household and club. Mrs. Sarah Tyson Rorer gave the first paper, speaking of the Food Supply, the Chemistry and Art of Body-building and Sanitation. A discussion followed which was led by Mrs. Helen Campbell of Madison, Wisconsin. The paper upon Physical Culture was treated by Mrs. Mary L. Sherman of Cambridge, Massachusetts, followed by a discussion led by Dr. Beecher of New York, in which Miss Sarah J. Farmer of Eliot, Maine, took active part. Social Aspects of Home Life was the subject presented by Mrs. Ellen A. Richardson of Boston with the dis-

cussion sustained by Mrs. Lydia Coonley (now Ward) of Chicago and Mrs. Helen Campbell.

At this session the growth of the National Household Economics Association was presented by Mrs. Wise, and Mrs. W. L. Armstrong of Ceylon spoke upon Home Life in India.

The Department of Social Economics under direction of Mrs. M. E. Fischel of Missouri presented a Civic Session with the general subjects: (a) Municipal Reforms; (b) Village and Township Improvement Associations; (c) Recent Legislation as it affects Social and Economic Life; (d) Trend of American Sentiment toward Labor Movements. The opening papers placed especial emphasis upon the question of Public Health, and the last introduced the great question of Trades-unions, then somewhat little known.

The evening meetings seem to have been arranged by the department leaders with a view of showing to the public, who were present in goodly numbers, the diversity of thought and action among the notable women present at the Biennial. The evening session of the second day presented Romance, by Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood; The Relation of the College to the Lower Schools, by Miss Clara Conway; and Woman in Finance, by Miss Agnes Repplier. It was a varied program, but one in which the interest of the audience never flagged.

The evening session of the last day was the crowning feature of the Biennial, and the opening address by Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer, upon the general subject "Philanthropy," illumined for her hearers the whole field of modern philanthropy, and pointed forward, with the foresight of a true prophet, to many changes which became realities in the ensuing years.



An excellent thesis upon "Civilization is at Bottom an Economic Fact" was treated by Miss Ellen Semple of Kentucky; and papers upon the different aspects of "Social Life" were prepared by Mrs. Evelyn L. Mason of Massachusetts and Mrs. Helen A. Gardiner, neither of whom were able to attend in person and both papers were read by Mrs. Ellen A. Richardson.

#### EDUCATION THE KEYNOTE

The programs of the Department sessions have been presented somewhat at length in order that the growth in club thought may be closely understood. The General Federation was at its third Biennial and already the trend of thought was leading away from matters of pure organization and distribution toward the real work which was soon to be undertaken by this great body of women. Education was the keynote of the Biennial, and every session opened up before the delegates and visiting members vistas of usefulness which had been hitherto foreign to their deliberations. For the first time clubwomen began to see the great fields ripe for harvest; and education, no longer *of self*, but *for service*, began to take definite hold of the great Federation.

Perhaps the most wonderful feature of the entire Biennial was the great number of remarkable women who assembled there. The Board of Directors itself contained a good number of women whose influence and work has been constructive in the highest degree. How could other than great advance be made under the direction of Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, and the other strong minds which made up that governing Board? How could meetings

be other than inspiring where the slogan was sounded by such women as Mrs. Sarah S. Platt (now Decker), Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell, Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer, Mrs. Ellen Richardson, Rev. Caroline Bartlett (now Crane), Mrs. Helen A. Gardiner, Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart, Mrs. Jennie C. Croly, Mrs. Sarah Tyson Rorer, Miss Agnes Repplier, Mrs. Helen Campbell, Mrs. Corinne S. Brown, Miss Sarah J. Farmer, Mrs. Lydia A. Coonley (now Ward) and a score of others whose very names spell progress in the history of civilization.

The business sessions of the Biennial were devoted largely to the revision of the by-laws and important changes were effected.\* An important resolution prepared by a committee from the Education Department was proposed by Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles of Illinois :

*Whereas*, The time is ripe for the adoption by the General Federation of Women's Clubs of a subject which shall be a central point of interest and work for all clubs represented ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the clubs a study of the science of education and of educational conditions existing in their home cities, to the end that the united influence of women's clubs may be exerted for the betterment of the state system of education from the kindergarten to the university.

*Resolved*, further, That we especially urge effort to emphasize systematic instruction in ethics in the public school curriculum.

*Resolved*, further, That the Board of Directors be asked to appoint a committee to make these suggestions effective.

(Signed) ALICE BRADFORD WILES, Chairman,  
MARY H. WILMARTH,  
MARGARET J. EVANS.

\* See part IV, Doc. VI.



This resolution had been unanimously adopted by the Illinois delegation and presented by them to the Education Department and by the latter to the joint session of the Literature and Education Departments. The resolution was adopted and referred to the Board of Directors. A second resolution, was offered by Mrs. Harriet R. Shattuck of Massachusetts : —

*Whereas*, There is nothing of more paramount importance to the welfare of state and nation than the preservation and economic development of our natural resources, and

*Whereas*, It is everywhere apparent that the wicked and wasteful destruction of our forest cover is a direct robbery of these resources and should be checked by every measure both of private endeavor and of legislative enactment, and

*Whereas*, It is self-evident that if these threatening conditions are realized and public sentiment aroused an incalculable benefit will be conferred on our entire nation ; be it

*Resolved*, That as General Federation of Women's Clubs, and as individual clubs as far as possible, we pledge ourselves to take up the study of forest conditions and resources and to further the highest interests of our several states in these respects.

A resolution of protest against the cruelties practiced upon the Armenians was received from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and unanimously adopted by the convention.

Mrs. Alice Ives Breed of Massachusetts presented the names of Mrs. Jennie C. Croly of New York, Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone of Michigan and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe of Massachusetts as honorary vice presidents of the General Federation, and favorable action was immediately taken.

The Nominating Committee, whose chairman was

Mrs. Sarah S. Platt of Colorado, submitted a report as follows :

President, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Illinois.

Vice President, Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, Massachusetts.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Kentucky.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Missouri.

Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Trumbull, Colorado.

Auditor, Miss Annie Laws, Ohio.

Directors :

Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, California.

Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, District of Columbia.

Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Maine.

Miss Sophie B. Wright, Louisiana.

Mrs. F. M. Ford, Nebraska.

Mrs. George W. Townsend, New York.

Miss Clara Conway, Tennessee.

Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes, Washington.

Mrs. Edward Longstreth, Pennsylvania.

The election was held at four o'clock, May 29, 1896, and resulted in the election of the ticket submitted by the nominating committee with the exception of the election of Mrs. James G. Berryhill of Iowa as director in place of Mrs. Longstreth.

At the close of the evening session, May 29, 1896, the Louisville Biennial was adjourned, having opened for clubwomen many avenues of usefulness over which the General Federation was to lead in the years of the immediate future.

On the morning of May 30, 1896, a meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. A few matters of business required immediate attention. Mrs. James G. Berryhill had



found it impossible to serve longer upon the Board and her resignation was accepted, and Mrs. Edward Longstreth of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was appointed to fill the vacancy. An executive committee was appointed consisting of the President, Mrs. Henrotin, and two members of the Board, Mrs. Lucia E. Blount and Miss Clara Conway. This committee was empowered to conduct all matters of business which should become imperative in the interim between Board meetings.

It was recognized at this time that the convention had presented for the consideration of the entire membership of the General Federation a great amount of valuable material which should be preserved in a form which should be convenient for reference and for distribution. Two printed reports were authorized; one to contain the official proceedings of the third Biennial, and the other the addresses which had been delivered at these meetings. This matter was left in the charge of the Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, and, although the first of the printed Biennial reports, the books were models for all succeeding Biennials.

This meeting closed the series of meetings held in connection with the third Biennial, which was without doubt the most successful convention ever thus far conducted by women. The meetings were presided over with dignity, ability and fairness; the discussions were spirited but courteous; everywhere an *esprit de corps* was manifest; and the interest and ambition of the individual was completely lost in a universal desire to put forward the united interests of the whole. The good of the Federation was uppermost in the minds of all.

In summing up the actual work accomplished by this Biennial the most significant feature of it all is the ad-

vance which the General Federation had made along the path of its evolution. The Biennial of 1892 had marked the organization of a great body of women into a federation of world-wide affiliation; that of 1894 had shown the upbuilding of state federations to strengthen and disseminate the General Federation spirit; but the Louisville Biennial in 1896 showed the beginning of a movement toward the coördination of educational forces. The reports of the standing committees showed this initial effort. The Reciprocity Committee reported the wide distribution of leaflets upon ten subjects,—Social Science, Education, American History, American Literature, Early English History, Children's Days at Clubs, A Social Symposium, Reciprocity, Country Clubs, and Traveling Libraries.

The Committee on Education recommended :

(a) The study of the science of education and educational conditions.

(b) The united influence of women's clubs for the betterment of the state system of education from the kindergarten to the university.

(c) The special effort of clubwomen to emphasize systematic instruction in ethics in the public school curriculum.

(d) The appointment by the Board of Directors of a committee to make these suggestions effective.

The resolutions passed showed a quickening interest in forest conditions and resources, and a resolution introduced and referred brought before the convention the subject of international arbitration.

In addition to these matters upon which definite action was taken, this convention presented to receptive minds addresses upon subjects which were attracting



the attention of the great social workers of the world. Among these subjects were Home Economics, The Working Girl, Women in Trades and Professions, and many others equally vital, not alone to women, but to the world at large, irrespective of sex.

On the day following the adjournment of the Biennial a meeting of the Council was held. The organization of state federations naturally forced to the attention of the members the question of the relation to the General Federation of the State Federation President and the State Chairman of Correspondence. The duties of each officer and her position in both state and General Federation seemed to be far from clear; many women felt that the office of the State Chairman should be abolished and that the work previously accomplished by that officer now belonged to the State President. Much discussion arose, and each side of the debate was ably supported by experienced workers. The final decision was that both officers were necessary, since upon the State Chairman of Correspondence, who was in reality a General Federation officer, devolved the work of keeping alive in her state the interests of the General Federation, while upon the State Federation President, who was a state federation official, fell the duty of conducting the work of the state federation at home. It was clearly shown that, since the interest of the General Federation must of necessity include the interest of all state federations, there was no possible ground for antagonism between the two offices. This decision settled matters so far as the abolishment of the State Chairman was concerned, but it by no means made it clear for all time as to what the duties of that officer should be. Probably no officer of the General Federa-

tion had even been so puzzled as to the duties required of her as has been this State Chairman of Correspondence or, as she was later called, the General Federation State Secretary. It has seemed to many that it was giving to two officers the work of guiding and representing the state federation. In reality there is not the slightest ground for this feeling, and the difference in sphere of work, so clearly set forth at the Louisville Council, remains just as clearly defined to the present day. The State President leads, guides and directs the work of the State Federation within the state; but upon the General Federation State Secretary falls the work of disseminating General Federation news and information, and keeping alive the many and varied interests of the General Federation in its position as intermediary and fostering parent of all the state organizations. The fact that the General Federation State Secretary represents the General Federation both at home and at the meetings of the General Federation, and the State Federation President represents the state federation upon all occasions should be kept always in mind, and the right attitude of mind on the part of all concerned will do away with any possibility of friction or of apathy on the part of either officer.

The work of preparing a history of the Woman's Club Movement, which had been interrupted by the death of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, was delegated by the Council to Mrs. Jennie C. Croly of New York. This choice was a most excellent one and most fitting since to Mrs. Croly belongs the honor of having founded Sorosis, to which club in turn belongs the honor of having founded the General Federation. It would not indeed be a far reach of imagination to hail Mrs. Croly



as the founder of the General Federation, since her guiding hand was seen at every turn in the early days. The History appeared in 1898, and in the introduction Mrs. Henrotin, President of the General Federation, pays this tribute to the author :

“No woman in the country is so well qualified as is Mrs. Croly to write the history of the Woman’s Club Movement in the United States; for from its inception Mrs. Croly has been one of the prominent promoters, and to her far-sighted wisdom and spiritual perception of the trend of the clubs was due the fact that Sorosis issued the invitation to the clubs to form a General Federation which should embrace all the clubs of the country.”

In the memory of every loyal clubwoman there should be a place kept green in grateful appreciation of the service rendered by Mrs. Croly. It was an uncrowned service, since she put away the honor of being the first President of the General Federation, an honor which would undoubtedly have been hers for the taking, but so long as the General Federation exists, space and time should be accorded to show honor to her memory.

## THE FOURTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### COUNCIL MEETING AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE second meeting of the Council of 1896-1898 was held at Washington, District of Columbia, February 15, 1897. The steady growth in membership was shown by the report of the Corresponding Secretary, showing five hundred and five clubs and twenty-four state federations at that time belonging to the General Federation. Honorary membership had been conferred upon Madame la Donairiere Klerk, of Holland; Countess of Meath, England; Frau Lina Morganstern, Germany; and Mrs. Barnett, England.

A vacancy had occurred in the Board caused by the death of Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper. This vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mrs. Eastman of California. In view of the prominent part which Mrs. Cooper had taken in the advancement of education and the great loss to the Board which her death occasioned, the following letter had been sent by the President to the president of each federated club:

DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT:

It is our duty to announce to you the death of Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper and her daughter Harriette. Mrs. Cooper was a member of the Board of Directors of the General Federation. As mother and daughter were absolutely inseparable, the latter accompanied Mrs. Cooper to the Board meetings and Biennials, and the



affection of the Board members was as great for the one as for the other. Mrs. Cooper and her daughter had devoted their lives to the furtherance of education, not only on the Pacific coast, but all over the United States. Their monument is the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association. Mrs. Cooper was especially interested in education for very young children, believing that the formative years before seven were the true period at which the child should be led by gentleness and right culture into the higher spiritual, as well as the intellectual, life. All her teachings illustrated this belief. Both Mrs. Cooper and her daughter were devoted to humanitarian work, and every cause commanded their zealous coöperation. The influence which they exerted over the higher spiritual life of the community in which they lived was one which will be sadly missed; but, as all good is positive, we know that that influence will go on increasing, and that their names will always be inseparably connected with the great educational movement for the little ones.

In reflecting on the lives of Mrs. Cooper and Harriette, we must bear in mind, above all, Browning's thought that "God's in His Heaven, All's right with the world."

Yours fraternally,

(Signed) ELLEN M. HENROTIN,

*President.*

Considerable business was passed at this Council, but the matter of greatest permanent interest was the appointment of a Ways and Means Committee which should take under consideration the question of increasing the funds of the General Federation. The members of this committee, which was to report at the following Biennial, were Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Mrs. Henry D. Pierce and Mrs. L. Brace Shattuck, chairman.

In accordance with an invitation which was received

from the Woman's Convention of the Tennessee Centennial, a day's session of the Council and Board of Directors was held at Nashville in October, 1897. This meeting of Board and Council, while full of local interest, did not take any decisive action upon matters of permanent interest. Excellent programs were presented which bore upon educational work, and the increase in number and value of traveling libraries. One session was devoted to a discussion of the by-laws and the report of the Ways and Means Committee, and the following resolution, submitted by the Arché Club of Chicago, was adopted by the Council:

*Resolved*, That a standing Committee on Art be added to the list of committees of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; the object being to advance the study of art history, theory and criticism and the employment of practical methods whereby art interests shall be promoted and supported in America, such as exhibitions of sculpture and painting and the bringing together of the artists and the people.

For the past few months the General Federation had been practically without an official organ, and at this time, in response to a communication from the editor, Miss Helen M. Winslow, club information was authorized for the *Club Woman*, an excellent club magazine published in Boston, Massachusetts.

Much thoughtful consideration was given by both Board and Council to the program for the approaching Biennial which was to be held at Denver, Colorado. Circulars were submitted, approved and distributed bearing upon the talent to be presented at both convention and conference sessions.

Resolutions of sympathy were sent to the Pioneer



Club of London, on account of the death of their president, Mrs. Massingberd.

#### FOURTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — DENVER

The fourth Biennial was held in Denver, Colorado, June 21-27, 1898. For fully a year before the opening day the Biennial Committee of the Board of Directors, Mrs. Edward Longstreth, Mrs. Philip N. Moore and Mrs. Francis M. Ford, had been in close touch with the local Biennial Board at Denver. The latter Board numbered one hundred and seventy-six members and was organized with president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer and committees on Press, Bureau of Information, Hotels, Places of Meeting, Entertainment, Transportation, Program, Finance, Ushers, Excursions and Badge. These committees worked with unabated zeal, and thousands of communications were sent to delegates, state chairmen and various other persons more or less vitally interested in the Biennial. Most elaborate plans were made for the entertainment of the visiting delegates: receptions, excursions, exhibitions, souvenirs, in short every possible need and pleasure, were anticipated.

The meetings were held in the Broadway Theater, the states being seated in alphabetical order under banners bearing the names of the states. The banners were in the colors of the state federation wherever such a selection had been made, and in all other cases the General Federation color, light blue, was used with lettering of silver. The State Chairman of Correspondence headed the delegation and the President of the state federation was seated next in order. Outside,

in the lobby, were the office of registration, committee rooms, post-office and various desks for the dispensing of information of all kinds. Inside, the aisles were thronged with delegates and speakers, escorted to their seats by the bright, attractive young girls of Denver, while here and there were swiftly but quietly passing little pages, carrying messages and distributing programs. The entire house was decorated with blue and white bunting, while over the stage the General Federation of Women's Clubs emblem, in blue and white, proclaimed the motto, "Unity in Diversity," as the keynote of all the deliberations.

At the opening session the convention was honored by the presence of the governor of the state, Hon. Alva Adams, the mayor of the city, Mr. T. S. McMurray, the president of the state federation, Mrs. M. D. Fletcher, and the president of the Denver Woman's Club, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt; all gave addresses of welcome.

Among many words of wisdom and witticism Governor Adams emphasized again and again the regard in which Colorado held her women. Among the many good things which his audience carried back to their homes may be found the following :

"Woman's clubs and her interest in public questions have been a revelation to many. Woman is found to be neither divine nor satanic, neither a slave nor an angel, simply human.

"The nation owes a debt of gratitude to women's clubs. They have been an inspiration to its members, they have been centers from which radiate electric currents of moral and political reform. They have broadened their own horizon and that of the race. They have organized the energy and intellect of women



and directed them into every field of good upon which falls the smile of God or man.

"Men have clubs for sport, pleasure, dissipation. If we omit the Woman's Morning Whist Club, which is as wasteful as any clubman can invent, women's clubs are universities, colleges, training schools where post-graduate degrees are taken in citizenship, art, literature.

"Woman's sphere is no longer confined to the wash-tub, the kitchen or the parlor. Her sphere is now the great whirling globe, with all its responsibilities and its glories. The growth of women's clubs is the greatest movement of this generation, and as representatives of that beneficent influence we greet you to-day.

"The faith Rome had in her vestal virgins Colorado has in her mothers, wives and daughters; to them we gladly trust the sacred fires of civilization, the palladium of our liberties, and, judging by the preponderance of flowers and feathers at church service, our religion!

"In the name of the women we love I welcome you to a state where the word 'male' has been eliminated from the laws and the word 'obey' from the marriage service."

Also let us mention the words of Mrs. Sarah S. Platt :

"In one of the newspaper articles giving an account of this Biennial, I read : 'It will be a strange and heretofore unheard of circumstance for the Western women to entertain the women of other sections.' Ah, Madam President, I trust it may always remain an 'unheard of circumstance.' Many of us believed, as we entered this house this morning, that we were Western women, but we find we are mistaken. We do not bid you welcome as women of the West, to the East or the North or the South, but to-day, as we look into the faces of this audience, because of the memories which crowd into our hearts, because of the overwhelming thought of the brave women from all sections who came first to this Western land; who, taking their babies in their arms, and bidding farewell to all the ties of young and early

friendships, faced known and unknown dangers to make this day possible to us; because of the old homesteads among the orange groves of Florida, or in the shadow of New England hills, which sheltered us equally — aye, because of the graves which alike belong to you and to me; because of the women of the 'gray' and the women of the 'blue'; because of Admiral George Dewey of Vermont, and General Fitzhugh Lee of Virginia, and Lieutenant Richard Hobson of Alabama, who are ours as well as yours; because of the joy which fills our hearts to-day all over the re-United States, we bid you welcome."

In replying to these splendid addresses Mrs. Henrotin commented upon the presence of the officials of state and municipality and gave a short account of the Woman's Club Movement.

The report of the Credential Committee showed eight hundred and thirty-five delegates in the voting body. The galleries were filled with the alternates, and guests were accommodated at the rear of the auditorium. The General Federation at the time of the Denver Biennial included five hundred and ninety-five clubs with a membership of sixty thousand, and thirty state federations of two thousand one hundred and ten clubs with approximately one hundred and fifty thousand members.

The convention was governed by the following rules:

1. Alternates shall have no duties or privileges as such except in the absence of their principals. An alternate acting for her principal at any meeting of the session must be recognized throughout such meeting as representing her state federation or club.

2. Each State Chairman shall be responsible for the number of votes cast by her state.

3. In order to facilitate business, resolutions, after being presented to the convention, must be referred to



the Committee on Resolutions, which will report at a stated time.

4. Debatable motions must be made in writing, signed and sent to the Recording Secretary.

5. Your committee also recommends the following rules from the Women's Manual of Parliamentary Law: No member shall speak more than once to any question, except by permission of the assembly. All speeches shall be limited to three minutes. Movers of motions shall be allowed to open and close debate.

Telegrams were sent to Julia Ward Howe, Lucinda H. Stone, Jennie C. Croly and Hon. William McKinley, President of the United States. Mrs. Eliza Kirtley Royle of Utah was made an Honorary Vice President of the General Federation and other minor matters of business were transacted.

The evening of June 22 was devoted to the general subject of Education, and the audience listened with much interest to (a) The Transitions of Modern Education; (b) Ethical Education in Schools; (c) Manual Education. At the close of the program an interesting presentation of the work of the George Washington Memorial Association was given by a member of the local club.

On Thursday morning a most helpful session was conducted in Broadway Theater by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson of Pennsylvania for the consideration of civic clubs and village improvement associations. Four excellent points were given as of the utmost importance. The first was the need of coöperation, a *movement together* on the part of the workers; the second, the need of keeping civics apart from politics; the third, the need of enlisting the children; and the fourth, the need of supporting existing institutions for civic

work rather than starting new and independent lines which might be looked upon with distrust.

The addresses under this general subject brought out excellent discussion upon the possible influence, both direct and indirect, of women upon legislation; and no small amount of inspiration was gained from the accounts of civic work accomplished by women's clubs in various sections of the country. Among the many activities of clubwomen were mentioned the establishment of health protective leagues, public libraries, free kindergartens, public playgrounds, care of cemeteries, intelligence offices, and receptacles for refuse in the public streets and parks. Already the literary club was tending toward public service and the self-culture club was reaching out toward social science.

At the same hour in Unity Church was held a session devoted to the press, and well-known newspaper women discussed the Relation of Women to the Press; the Club and the Press; the Club and the Newspaper; Coöperation of the Press with the Altruistic Movements of the Times. These addresses were given by women to whom words were easy weapons, and did much toward placing the press in the right light before the women to whom the printed page was a mysterious and unknowable factor in civilization.

The Thursday afternoon session at the Broadway Theater had for the general topic Phases of Economic Work in Clubs. In opening the session the chairman, Mrs. Lynden Evans of Illinois, said:

“What is needed is to arouse individuals to a sense of responsibility and opportunity, no matter what the environment. When every woman rises to her opportunity, the world will be purified.



“The clubs of various sorts are the best forms for developing this sense of opportunity. They create a place of meeting where equality prevails, where the motto ‘from each as she has power to give, to each as she has need’ is written over every door and where the bond of a common purpose above individual life draws all together in the inspiration of mutual effort. The business women of to-day often hold themselves aloof from fear of patronage and condescension, and the home women feel a separation that, to many, is impossible to overcome.

“In the free discussion and coöperation of the club these difficulties disappear and warm friendships and helpful hours are the result. The home woman needs a wider, truer view of life, a greater knowledge of the world in which she lives and into which she must send her children. She needs the education of sympathetic life, and above all the uplifting influence of the burdens and sorrows carried quietly under the calm exterior of the business woman. It has been my privilege for two years past to sit at lunch where discussion of topics touching the deeps of life were carried on, and the way in which the subjects have been met, the serious, earnest search for truth, the universal tolerance, were in delightful comparison with the pitiable discussion we have all heard which ended, ‘I don’t want to think that is true and so I won’t.’ The business women need the protection which a well-conducted club gives them, they want the softening, refining influence of home women, and they want the opportunity to develop those accomplishments and arts which make home delightful. I hope the day will come when the strongest women’s clubs of every town and city will stand as protectors of the women who so sorely need, that they will gather to themselves the moral light of every high-minded woman of the business world and turn that force in such a well-directed way that vice and evil shrink away from the searchlight of high effort.”

Other subtopics considered were Business Women's Clubs; the Store Club; Lunch Clubs; the Factory Clubs. At this session Miss Jane Addams of Hull House, Chicago, was present and spoke of the excellent results of the club which she conducted and urged upon those present the advisability of doing something with and for the women less fortunate than themselves.

At the same hour on Thursday afternoon a most helpful session on Home Economics was held at Unity Church. The field of woman in business relations as well as in the home was touched upon by the speakers.

On the afternoon of June 23, the delegates and visiting clubwomen were entertained at the homes of some of Denver's leading women. No effort was spared to give the clubwomen the best the city had, both socially and intellectually. In this connection, the fact should not be lost from sight that, although many of the ladies, both hostesses and visiting clubwomen, were beautifully and expensively gowned, the little woman with simple frock and few or no jewels was also present and apparently just as happy and just as well received. So much had the federation spirit already accomplished that intellect and the right attitude of mind counted for more than fine clothes and costly gems. Two lessons were being learned by the clubwomen in the evolution of the club idea; the rich and exclusive woman was learning to recognize the real value of those in more moderate circumstances, while those to whom fortune had seemed less lavish found that, under the fine cloth, there often lay a heart as tender, a hand as generous, and a soul as white as their own. A great leveler is the club movement, raising all women out of the old rut of prejudice and superstitions of race and birth and condition of life.



Thursday evening afforded a literary feast for the delegates, and they gathered in Broadway Theater to listen to Miss Agnes Repplier of Pennsylvania and Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart of New York. Miss Repplier treated the modern novel with a master hand, and the delightful reading by Mrs. Stuart from her own "Sonny" stories gave great pleasure to her hearers.

A very important matter of business occupied the morning session of Friday, June 24. The Committee on Ways and Means, appointed by order of the Council which convened at Washington, District of Columbia, in February, 1897, submitted to the convention the following report :

*Whereas*, It appears by the report of the Treasurer, that the Board of Directors finds itself seriously embarrassed in its endeavor to meet the pecuniary obligations incident to the work of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; and,

*Whereas*, Upon careful scrutiny of the affairs of the General Federation we find that only one half the sum needed is provided, under the present regulations as to dues — the necessary balance having been paid by individuals — and that our first recommendation in the report submitted to the Council at Nashville, October 21 and 22, 1897, would not be sufficient, if adopted, to afford the necessary relief; and,

*Whereas*, It is the sense of your committee that so large and representative an organization as is the General Federation of Women's Clubs should be maintained in a manner commensurate with its importance and increasing volume of business; and,

*Whereas*, It is essential that the expenses of the Federation shall be met annually, and an annual payment of dues would seem to be more convenient than a biennial payment; it is therefore unanimously

*Resolved*, That we recommend for adoption the following amendment to its by-laws :

Substitute for Section Seven (7), Article Three (3), the following :

The annual due for clubs whose membership consists of fifty or less shall be five dollars.

The annual due for clubs of over fifty members shall be at the rate of ten cents per capita.

The annual due for state federation shall be at the rate of twenty-five cents per club.

Dues shall be paid annually the first of May, beginning with the year 1900. And,

*Whereas*, The dues and the representation of clubs are so closely connected as to make the latter a necessary part of the former, it is further

*Resolved*, That we recommend for adoption the following amendments to Section Eight (8), Article One (1) :

Insert after the words "each federated club," the words "of one hundred members or less."

Add to the first clause the words, "and for each additional one hundred members or fraction thereof it shall be entitled to one additional delegate."

Strike out the word "five," and insert the word "two."

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. L. BRACE SHATTUCK, *Chairman*,

MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE,

MRS. HENRY D. PIERCE,

*Ways and Means Committee.*

A very lively discussion followed this report, during which an amendment to the first amendment offered by the committee was adopted, placing the dues for all clubs at the rate of ten cents per capita.

Following the business meeting, two excellent conferences were held. In the Broadway Theater Miss Margaret J. Evans conducted an education conference during which a great deal of valuable information re-



garding the work of the clubs for the advancement of education and the improvement of educational facilities was brought out. Many lines of work were reported, among which were :

Art work in the form of lectures on art ; school decoration and gifts of works of art to schools ; department of civics ; education of children in patriotism, village improvement work, legislation for the improvement of school conditions, legislation for defective and unfortunate children, efforts to secure more women on school boards, the enforcement of truant laws, education in household economics, manual training, vacation schools, night schools, kindergartens, establishment of mothers' clubs in educational meetings ; above all, committees of visitation and investigation, work of coöperation and coördination with other educational forces in their interest for skilled superintendents, where many schools are united under one supervisor who controls the schools and advises them ; in social intercourse between teachers and the women of the clubs ; above all, in the effort which can show no classified results, to foster and promote more and better education in morals in our schools.

Moral instruction in the public schools and the coöperation of teachers and parents for the purpose of so training the children that they may become worthy citizens were phases of the work most strongly urged.

The other conference was upon club methods, and many questions which the somewhat rapid development of the club movement had forced to the front were discussed with good results. Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, afterwards, as Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, sounded the note which later on was to prove the keynote of

her administration when at this conference she spoke for the club with unlimited membership. With characteristic and telling emphasis she said: "There is a club in Colorado that is going to take for its topic next winter 'The Fifteenth Century' while the problems of the nineteenth century are staring them in the face; the very animals in the street in the little mining town where they live are needing their attention. Let us have the unlimited club: it is altruistic; it is democratic; it is American."

#### THE INDUSTRIAL PROBLEM AS IT AFFECTS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The program of Friday afternoon was a distinct departure from the ordinary, educational, literary or artistic club program. The chairman, Miss Clare de Graffenreid of Washington, District of Columbia, had chosen the general subject, The Industrial Problem as it affects Women and Children, and she presented one of the most prominent social workers in London at that time, Mrs. Sidney Webb, who contrasted English and American conditions, and with unequivocal force drove home to the women in her audience their duty and responsibility for the conditions under which the women of America toil. Mrs. Webb was followed by Mrs. Corinne S. Brown of Chicago, Miss Helena Dudley of Boston and others, each one of whom presented some telling phase of the economic and industrial problems confronting the nation. The subjects were presented as matters of vital interest to the General Federation, matters which could not be ignored and must not be thrust aside. As a result of the consideration of the



industrial problem, Miss de Graffenreid later introduced resolutions before the convention which were adopted unanimously. In submitting the resolutions she said :

“It is the sense of my committee that the industrial problem, as it affects women and children, should not be left, so to speak, in the air, but that a definite line of action should be formulated. Definite inquiry should be put before the individual women in the clubs, and definite results presented to this Federation at its next Biennial meeting.

“The committee appointed at the conference on the industrial problem as it affects women and children, therefore, has the honor to make the following report :

“Believing that right and justice demand that women of larger opportunities should stand for the toilers who cannot help themselves, we therefore beg leave to present the following resolutions :”

*Resolved*, First, That the United States government be asked to establish a system of postal savings banks for the benefit of small wage earners.

*Resolved*, Second, That no child under fourteen years of age be employed in mill, factory, workshop, store, office, or laundry, and no boy under sixteen years old employed in mines.

*Resolved*, Third, That adequate school facilities, including manual training, should be provided in the United States for every child up to the age of fourteen years, and also that good school laws shall be secured and strictly enforced in every community.

*Resolved*, Fourth, That in mill, factory, workshop, laundry, and mercantile establishment, the maximum working day for women and children shall not exceed eight hours, or forty-eight hours per week.

*Resolved*, Fifth, That so far as possible, uniform labor legislation shall be secured throughout the different States.

*Resolved*, Sixth, That each club in this Federation shall appoint a standing committee whose especial duty it shall be to inquire into the labor conditions of women and children in that particular locality. That each state federation shall appoint a similar committee to investigate its state labor laws and those relating to sanitation and protection for women and children. That it also shall be the duty of these committees to influence and secure enforcement of labor ordinances and state laws of this character. That these committees at specified times shall inform their organizations of all conferences and conventions in the interest of social and industrial progress, also that the General Federation shall appoint a committee of five members, to be called the Committee on Legislation for Women and Children, whose duty it shall be to collect the reports of the above-mentioned work and present the results at the next Biennial.

An art conference and an evening upon art and utility marked a great step in advance for the appreciation and study of art by clubwomen. At the conference, the principal speaker was Robert Clarkson, portrait painter, and his audience went away with a new insight into the meaning of pictures and the value of seeking not alone to know art but to know its motive. The value of teaching art in the public schools by direct and indirect means received a large amount of attention and discussion. Several days later, Mrs. Olds of Chicago introduced the following resolution of the Arché Club asking that a Department of Art be added to the work of the General Federation :

*Resolved*, That a Department of Art be added to the departments of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the object being to advance the study of art, history, theory, and criticism, and the employment of



practical methods whereby art interest shall be promoted and supported in America, such as exhibitions of sculpture and painting, and the bringing together of the artists and the people.

The resolution was adopted by the convention, and Mrs. Herman J. Hall of Chicago was the first chairman of the Art Department of the General Federation.

Saturday, June twenty-fifth, was a playday for the convention. The Denver clubwomen took their guests upon a never to be forgotten trip around the famous Georgetown Loop. Twelve hundred women and about twelve men enjoyed to the utmost the beauties of nature, the marvels of railroad construction, and the wonders of a typical mining town. At Idaho Springs a club of eighty women served luncheon to the entire party; and the magnitude of this task seemed more tremendous when the guests learned that every article of food used at Idaho Springs was, of necessity, brought from Denver. It was a day of delightful, restful change. A musical evening under the management of Mrs. Philip N. Moore closed the day. It was an evening with the Folk Songs of America. As the audience rose to leave the local Biennial Board distributed among them five thousand blue columbines, the state flower of Colorado.

Sunday morning even in the city of Denver where women and men walk more nearly in equality than in some of the more conservative parts of the country there was a novel experience when many of the Denver pulpits were occupied by the visiting clubwomen. Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Rev. Florence Crocker, Rev. Margaret J. Evans, Mrs. J. C. Learned, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, Rev. Celia Parker Woolley, Mrs. J. A. Robert, Mrs. Anna Sneed Cairns, Mrs. Edward Long-

streth, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Miss Helen M. Cole and Mrs. Amy Stacy, each supplied the whole or a part of the regular service at various churches.

A children's meeting was held in Broadway Theater Sunday afternoon. Miss Jane Addams was the principal speaker and Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart read two stories and Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Jr., spoke of the League of Good Citizenship among children.

An evening session at Broadway Theater dealt with the Spiritual Significance of Organization. There was singing of patriotic songs and of the Federation song, adopted as such by the convention. This song, entitled 'March On, Brave Lads, March On,' was written by Anna J. Hamilton with music by Mildred J. Hill.

On the last day of the convention were held two sessions upon Literature. One was a conference, and the other was devoted largely to the library movement in the United States, including traveling libraries. There was also a business meeting and the election of officers.

The Nominating Committee, composed of one representative from each state, brought in the following ticket :

President, Mrs. Rebecca Douglas Lowe of Georgia.

Vice President, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt of Colorado.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Emma A. Fox of Michigan.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. G. W. Kendrick, Jr., of Pennsylvania.

Treasurer, Mrs. Philip N. Moore of Missouri.

Auditor, Mrs. M. E. Young of Oregon.

Directors :

Mrs. Charles Morris of Wisconsin.

Mrs. F. A. Eastman of California.

Mrs. William Tod Helmuth of New York.



Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood of the District of Columbia.

Mrs. C. S. Kinney of Utah.

Mrs. H. H. Pyle of Connecticut.

Mrs. F. N. Ford of Nebraska.

Mrs. E. L. Buchwalter of Ohio.

Mrs. Harriet Windsor of Iowa.

Immediately after the report had been received, Mrs. C. P. Barnes placed in nomination for the presidency of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Mrs. Alice Ives Breed of Massachusetts. This nomination was quickly seconded and Mrs. Belknap of Kentucky placed in nomination for Auditor Mrs. C. P. Barnes of Kentucky. This also received a second; and the convention, after some debate, proceeded to the election of the six general officers. Upon this occasion, by consent of the convention, the local Biennial Board were given full privilege of the floor and were allowed to vote for the officers. The result of the ballot showed Mrs. Rebecca Douglas Lowe elected President and Mrs. Barnes, Auditor, while the other names presented by the Nominating Committee were ratified by the convention. The convention also ratified the selection made by the Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

The business sessions of this convention passed the following amendments to the by-laws:

#### DUES

#### ARTICLE III, SECTION 7

The annual due for clubs shall be at the rate of ten cents per capita.

The annual due for state federations shall be at the rate of twenty-five cents per club.

Dues shall be paid annually the first of May, beginning with 1900.

## REPRESENTATION

### ARTICLE I, SECTION 8

Each federated club of fifty members or less shall be entitled to be represented by its president or her appointee only.

Each club of between fifty and one hundred members shall be entitled to be represented by its president or her appointee and one delegate.

For each additional one hundred members, or majority fraction thereof, a club shall be entitled to one additional delegate.

The minimum representation of each state federation shall be five delegates.

Each state federation of over twenty-five clubs shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every twenty-five clubs or majority fraction thereof.

With a fine sense of appreciation of the monumental service rendered by any woman who gives to the General Federation four consecutive years of her life, the convention at this time voted to confer upon any such person the title of Honorary President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. At a later convention, this action was considered to be somewhat hasty and was consequently rescinded.

The closing session of the Biennial was devoted to the passing of resolutions, the delivering of the annual address of the retiring president, and the presentation of the new officers of the convention.

Each department made a brief report, and, in addition



to the action already mentioned, which established a Department of Art in the General Federation, the Home Economics Section urged the study of household economics in as thorough and systematic a manner as was already devoted to the study of history, art or literature. The Section on Economic Phases offered a resolution, which was adopted by the convention, as follows :

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs shall encourage and promote clubs among women of the business world on the principles of coöperation, self-government and self-support. Further

*Resolved*, That we thank the Federation for the opportunity of presenting this work, and for the protection which your recognition offers to the business women.

The Civic Section urged that all clubs, as bodies of trained housekeepers, should consider themselves guardians of the civic housekeeping of their respective communities; that they should make a study of measures of public sanitation, of matters of public comfort, and of methods of improving and beautifying the towns and cities; also, that they should carefully watch all municipal legislation in such directions as shall improve the physical and moral conditions of the community.

The Library Section asked for the appointment of a Library Committee, believing that "such a committee would be the center of appeal, an inspiration which is so much desired."

The Committee on Resolutions brought before the convention five resolutions which deserved attention. The first touched national affairs as follows :

*Whereas*, This is a time of universal national sorrow and anxiety on account of the war for progress and

humanity now being waged by the United States against Spain;

*Resolved*, That the General Federation expresses its confidence in the wisdom, ability, and courage of the President of the United States and his advisers in this crisis, and its profound gratitude to the brave men who are upholding the national honor on land and sea.

The women of the General Federation rest secure in the belief that the valor of the army and navy will soon bring about peace with honor, and confer upon islands near and remote the blessings of liberty so long enjoyed by this country. Like the women of '76 and '61, the women of '98 stand united and ready to aid the government at all times and in all womanly ways.

The second treated the educational problem:

*Resolved*, That the Federation is also in accord with the desire of those citizens who are endeavoring to found a National University in the city of Washington, and trusts that in due time such a wise and beneficent institution may be established.

The third was in the interest of public health:

*Resolved*, That we petition Congress to form a National Health Bureau for the dissemination of scientific knowledge of the laws of health.

Science, through the bureau of animal industry, has done much toward eliminating disease from plant life, also pleuropneumonia from cattle, and cholera from swine and fowls. May we not now urge Congress to turn its attention to the human family, which is decimated by consumption and other contagious diseases?

We believe that a distribution of literature from Congress embodying the best laws for development and proper care of the human being would decrease the number of imbecile, insane, blind, intemperate and sick who are now a public charge.



The Federation would also commend to the attention of clubs some measures of state legislation, especially those which propose to give to the mother full possession of her child by repealing ancient laws which vested that possession wholly in the father.

This organization also asks that upon the labor commission proposed to be established at Washington there be placed at least two women thoroughly conversant with the needs of the laborers of our country.

The fourth dealt with forestry :

*Resolved*, That as federated clubs we deplore the destruction in our country of its natural beauties and resources ; that we urge upon all clubs a study of the work of the National Forestry Association, to the end that we may call the attention of all citizens to the preservation of our forests, the prevention of wasteful fires and floods, and to all the economic interests involved. We request the clubs to study particularly the topography of their own states, in order that the country may not suffer such loss as that of the palisades of New Jersey, the records of the cliff dwellers in the Southwest, or the pictorial rocks of Utah.

*Resolved*, That we recommend that each state federation appoint a protective committee whose duty shall be to procure information as to the beauties and resources of its own states, and report on the same to the state organization.

The fifth was of general suggestion :

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges upon all its members concentration and coöperation of effort among existing bodies organized for similar objects.

The only other matters of business of the Denver Biennial were the election of Mrs. Henrotin as delegate to the Paris Exposition in 1900 and the indorsement of

Mrs. Potter Palmer as a potential member of the Commission for that Exposition.

The annual address of the retiring President, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, was a résumé of the work which she had done during the four years of her administration. In closing she said :

“The motive of the Federation is of necessity the religious motive, not as allied to any church or any creed or any nation, but underlying them all. It is one form of the modern expression for the ideal life. And this life is in our blood — we must, perforce, lead it. We need not speak its truths in the temples ; that is a form of religion to which only the elect are called ; but we must live an applied Christianity. We must live it in the marts of trade, in the home, in the school, in the world.

“What greater service can be rendered the world than to be constantly reminded, not by words, but by deeds, that man does not live by bread alone ? If this Federation is but one step in the ladder of progress by which the ‘colossal woman’ mounts upward, surely all the labor we have given to it and all the love we bear it have not been in vain.”



## THE FIFTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### WORK BEFORE THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors was held at Denver, June 28, 1898. Action was taken upon all matters which had been referred by the convention. Foremost among these was the appointment of a standing committee for the purpose of advancing literary work. The members of the committee named by the Board were Mrs. Eugene B. Heard of Georgia, Mrs. C. S. Kinney of Utah and Mrs. E. L. Buchwalter of Ohio. The Executive Committee of the Board appointed for the ensuing biennial period were Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Lockwood and Mrs. Buchwalter. Mrs. Philip N. Moore was appointed chairman of foreign correspondence.

Miss Margaret J. Evans of Minnesota was selected as chairman of the Committee on Education. Mrs. Corinne S. Brown of Illinois was appointed to serve as chairman of a committee on Industrial Conditions affecting Women and Children, the duties of which were defined: (1) to have supervision and charge of the industrial phase of the program; (2) to collate the result of the investigation of the various clubs for presentation at the next Biennial.

Mrs. C. P. Barnes was authorized to attend to the publication of the official proceedings of the Denver

Biennial, and the Treasurer was instructed to pay traveling expenses of the Board for the next Biennial meeting.

At the convention there had been some question as to the legality of one person holding two offices, and the Board at this time took the matter under consideration. It was obviously confusing to allow a woman one vote as Chairman of State Correspondence and another as Vice President of the General Federation by virtue of her office as president of an organization holding membership in the General Federation. It was determined that such a condition was at least unwise, and that the Board would thereafter refuse to appoint the president of a state federation to the position of State Chairman of Correspondence.

Early in the biennial period the Art Committee, which had been created at the Denver Biennial, issued its first circular. This circular was mailed to each club in the General Federation. It contained many excellent suggestions, among them, (1) the establishing of lecture courses on art topics, (2) the encouragement of home industries, (3) the decoration of schoolrooms, and (4) an appeal for united effort to abolish advertisements which deface the natural scenery throughout the country. This circular was widely distributed and called forth letters of inquiry from many states. Much of the work of the committee was centered about this correspondence, which entailed much advice regarding the formation of art classes, aid in writing papers upon art topics and the furnishing of programs and bibliographies for the study of art.

The chairman of this committee, Mrs. Herman J. Hall of Illinois, manifested the greatest interest in her



work. In June, 1899, she attended at her own expense the Council meeting at Philadelphia, at which time she obtained consent of the Board of Directors to hold an exhibition of Arts and Crafts during the biennial week at Milwaukee and arranged for three sessions at the Biennial: One session to be devoted to the sculptors' art; one to municipal art; and one to reports from state federations and clubs working along practical art lines. Mrs. Hall was also invited to address clubs in several localities and a quickened interest in art subjects was soon aroused.

A second circular was issued by this committee in November, 1899. This was published in the *Club Woman* and reprints were sent to fully two hundred clubs. This circular contained a very full and complete bibliography on sculpture and painting with addresses of firms from which photographs might be obtained. Directions were also given for the study of sculpture, and clubs were urged to prepare themselves for a better knowledge and appreciation of this branch of art before the session at Milwaukee, which was to be devoted to the possibilities of sculpture in our own cities and towns. During the entire term of office of this Committee on Art especial emphasis was placed upon the desirability (1) of fostering the inherited college industries, (2) of aiding those already established, and (3) of encouraging the women in both town and country to perfect its old industries as well as to organize new forms. The General Federation for all time will owe to this committee a debt of gratitude for the service which it rendered in laying the foundation for the study of art upon a highly artistic and at the same time distinctly practical basis.

## FIFTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — MILWAUKEE

At the Milwaukee Biennial the fine results of the work of this committee were most evident. A goodly number of clubs sent reports showing the stimulus received and the work accomplished. The exhibition was most interesting and instructive and the sessions devoted to art were full of inspiration.

The exhibition was thronged during the entire week: rugs, both oriental and domestic; laces, modern and antique; handwork in brass, gold and iron; rings, baptismal robes and bridal veils, — all displayed in the best possible manner. The evening devoted to sculpture was practical and performed a double service, since the speaker not only criticised existing evils but gave valuable suggestions and advice. An interesting feature of this session was the sculpture posing, with a living statue, illustrating various emotions and ideas. The presence upon the platform of two sculptors at work, one modeling the head and the other the figure of a man, gave additional interest to the words of the speaker. The session upon Municipal Art was equally valuable from the standpoint of the student of art or civics; civic beauty, civic cleanliness, the abolishment of hideous signs and billboards; these are but few of the subjects touched upon during the evening.

The Education Committee under the chairmanship of Miss Margaret J. Evans, of Minnesota, was very active. In reply to inquiries asking for definite information concerning the work which women's clubs were doing for education, a circular was issued which contained the data collected by the President of the General Federation and delivered by her before the Southern Teachers' Associa-



tion. The facts as set forth showed that clubs and federations had :

1. Visited schools systematically and sympathetically ; studied school laws and conditions, and aided in preventing truancy.

2. Coöperated with local, state, and national education associations.

3. United the home and school by means of mothers' clubs, child study circles, educational lectures, and by social intercourse.

4. Maintained vacation schools and secured opportunities for field study.

5. Served as members of school boards and committees, and as county and state superintendents of schools.

6. Maintained free kindergartens and secured their adoption into public school system.

7. Secured the introduction of manual training and of instruction in domestic science into the schools ; paid for special instruction on Saturdays ; opened their own homes to sewing and cooking classes ; and equipped model kitchens.

8. Provided for reading rooms, play rooms and public playgrounds.

9. Improved the sanitary conditions of schoolhouses and grounds.

10. Cultivated the æsthetic sense by the artistic decoration of schoolrooms, by gifts of pictures and casts, by instruction in outdoor art and prizes for flower culture.

To this condensed information the committee added suggestions for further work, urging the careful study of educational conditions everywhere, the establishment of manual training and domestic science schools and courses, vacation schools, free public kindergartens, mothers' clubs, parents' and teachers' associations, the widening of the curriculum in the four lower grades of

all schools to include a course in systematic instruction in moral training in all public schools. Along with these suggestions, the committee set forth the reasons which led to their promulgation.

That this circular was fruitful of large results was clearly evidenced (1) by the increasing number of days devoted to this study of education by clubs and federations everywhere, (2) by the number of standing committees on education in the state federations, (3) by the actual betterment of school conditions in many localities, (4) by the number and character of the inquiries which followed distribution of the circular.

At the Biennial, time was given for the presentation and discussion of many of the subjects suggested by the Education Committee. One entire session was given to the needs of the public schools; a large part of another, to the question of domestic science and its connection with education; and the subject of vacation schools claimed its quota in a session devoted to a group of important subjects.

The Committee on Industrial Problems affecting Women and Children very soon after the Denver Biennial issued a circular in which the resolutions passed at the convention were placed before the clubs with the further attention of all clubwomen called to the change which was gradually taking place in the club movement. The circular read in part:

“Women's clubs have mainly been devoted to intellectual study and to philanthropy, a few dealt with legislative reforms; but along whatever lines they have worked, unequal industrial conditions have formed a common barrier to progress. The question, ‘How shall I earn my living?’ is displacing the question, ‘How



shall I live righteously?' and clubwomen cannot ignore the disastrous effect of such displacement upon their own sex or upon their children.

"So large a portion of the people are obliged to devote their energies to bread getting that grace and refinement born of leisure are becoming rarer. Industrial necessity is shortening the period of childhood, is driving the boys and girls out of school into factories and shops at so early an age that to predicate the ignorance of the future citizen is as startling as it is sure.

"The development of all social factors, art, literature, education, philanthropy and law, is now waiting on industrial development. It is for these social factors that women's clubs are working. The time has come for an extension of effort toward those members of society upon whose labor all depend, and without whose improvement all demands for a higher standard will fail.

"The best and brightest minds of all countries are bending their energies toward industrial reform. Therefore, to attain a clearer vision for her own pursuits, to insure a safe and positive future for her children, to ally herself with the mental vigor of the age, organized womanhood must study the fundamental basis of progress, the growth of industrial methods.

"Recognizing this necessity, and in compliance with the resolutions of the General Federation, the undersigned urge that your club at once appoint a committee of those who are interested in the subject."

This circular was followed by a letter from the President of the General Federation to the presidents of all federated clubs, which emphasized the power of the General Federation, and the influence for good which it might exert in behalf of working women and children. This letter was of great service to the standing committee.

During the period between the Denver and the

Milwaukee Biennials the General Federation might truly have been said to be entering upon an era of service. It is true that the first president, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, had sounded a warning, "Remember the Federation was organized for service, not for dominance," but it was not until fully ten years later that the word "Service" took on the meaning which is attached to it in the work of the General Federation to-day. At the Milwaukee Biennial were presented reports of actual work accomplished, and plans were submitted for further efforts toward extensive civic betterment. The meetings were well planned and carried out. The programs show that the subjects were presented largely by the clubwomen themselves and that discussion was free and full. It appeared that "federation for service" was a term that might soon be realized.

#### A CLOUD UPON THE FEDERATION SKY

There had, however, prior to this time appeared a small cloud upon the federation horizon, and by the time of the Milwaukee Biennial this cloud had taken on a somewhat ominous appearance. A fact which should be held in mind by all students of the General Federation movement is that when the General Federation was formed there were no state federations in existence, and the General Federation at the outset was a federation of clubs. During Mrs. Henrotin's term of office state federations were born with startling rapidity. As a federation of clubs, both representation and rank of official staff were simple; but as soon as the state federations were admitted, some very natural questions arose as to correct manner of representation, relative rank of



state president and State Chairman of Correspondence, financial support of the parent organization, and other matters relating to taxation and representation.

The somewhat unnatural formation of an organization in which individual clubs and state federations were admitted upon an equal footing, seemed to many to be too complicated an arrangement and one which threatened to send to the Biennials a representative body which would soon become unwieldy in size. At the Philadelphia Council in 1899 this sentiment had become prevalent to such an extent that a committee on reorganization had been appointed. This committee held several meetings and heard and discussed all phases of the subject with the somewhat unsatisfactory result that, at the time of the Milwaukee Biennial, they were forced to submit both a majority and minority report,\* and so evenly divided was the committee as to the best plan of reorganization, that the majority report contained but one name in excess of the minority report.

For a time the difference between the two factions, as represented in these two reports, seemed to be centered about the individual club and its direct membership in the General Federation; and doubtless the Milwaukee Biennial would have easily disposed of the matter had it not been for an unfortunate occurrence just prior to the convention which gave a new and for a time somewhat alarming aspect to the entire plan of reorganization and threatened most seriously the integrity of the General Federation.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors immediately preceding the Milwaukee Convention, the report of the

\* See Part IV, Doc. VII and VIII.

Committee on Reorganization was followed by a statement from the President of the General Federation to the effect that among the clubs which had made application for membership in the General Federation since the last Board meeting was the Woman's Era Club of Boston, Massachusetts, a club whose membership included colored women. The method of admission at that time had been that of allowing the President to pass upon applications and virtually to admit such as were undoubtedly eligible, but it was necessary that such action on the part of the President should be ratified by the Board before the club was in reality an accepted part of the General Federation. No question ever having previously arisen, the President had taken this course with the Woman's Era Club without consulting her Executive Committee and in ignorance of the fact that this club was not a club of white women. There is no doubt that this hasty action would not have been taken by the President, herself a Southern woman, if any intimation of the real condition of affairs had reached her.

The Board immediately took up the matter with the Woman's Era Club, setting forth the fact that no club was in reality admitted to the General Federation until the action of the President was ratified by the entire Board; and, such ratification having been withheld, the dues which had been paid having been returned, it was requested that the certificate of membership be returned at once.

Immediately the atmosphere at Milwaukee became charged with illy concealed excitement. It became known that Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, the delegate chosen by the Woman's Era Club to represent



them at the Biennial, was to be refused a seat at the convention on the ground that her club had not been properly admitted to membership. This is a matter which should be clearly defined, and it is but fair to all that it be clearly understood. There was never any question regarding Mrs. Ruffin's seat in the Milwaukee Biennial as a delegate of the Massachusetts State Federation, and the question which disturbed the quiet of the Biennial atmosphere was not the question of seating any particular delegate, but rather of allowing admission to a club of colored women, the latter phase of the matter being of wide significance and grave importance. Even those women who were most anxious to have the Woman's Era Club admitted to the General Federation did not fail to realize that it was not a question simply of the gain to the General Federation of clubs of colored women, but that it included also the question of the loss to that body of certain clubs of white women which would be sure to follow such action.

The women of Massachusetts and of New England, almost without exception, took the stand that it was impossible to refuse to Mrs. Ruffin, as delegate of the Woman's Era Club, a seat in the convention, inasmuch as that club, having paid dues and otherwise complied with the by-laws of the General Federation, had been virtually admitted without question and held a properly executed certificate of membership in that body.

There were many members of the convention who sympathized fully with this point of view, urging strongly that the General Federation should not be allowed to recede from the position in which, although unconsciously, it had been placed by the President and in which it was securely upheld by the by-laws. It was

urged that the General Federation should be a federation of *all* women regardless of color, creed or nationality. It is safe to record that the members holding this point of view were largely Northern women to whom the establishing of a color line seemed like a backward step, which neither their conscience nor their experience in life would permit them to make. On the other hand, an equally strong protest came from the women of the South, who rebelled, with the whole strength of their natures, customs and traditions, from the amalgamation of clubs of white with those of colored women. These women strongly urged the introduction of the word "white" in the by-laws, in that way limiting membership in the General Federation to white women only.

In spite of the intense feeling, the color question, so called, was not allowed to come upon the floor for discussion at this Biennial. This was doubtless due somewhat to the tact of the presiding officer, but it was also due to a desire on the part of many leading delegates that the question should not be precipitated in its heat and that time might elapse in which a plan should be formulated which should meet with the favor of both factions. The matter remained in abeyance until the next Biennial.

#### OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED BY THE BIENNIAL

The constantly increasing membership gave to the Milwaukee Convention a delegate body representing six hundred and seventy-four clubs, with a membership of sixty-five thousand, and thirty-six state federations of two thousand six hundred and seventy-five clubs, with a membership of more than one hundred and fifty-five



thousand. That these delegates were not upon a mere pleasure trip, but realized fully the opportunity for growth and development which the Biennial afforded, was shown by the interest manifest at all business meetings, the great crowds at every session, and the eagerness with which each one received new suggestions or embraced the opportunity for information in regard to a higher and better civilization for which the clubwomen and the world at large were striving.

A session devoted to the influence and value of the press is worthy of note as an indication of the continual alertness of the minds of the clubwomen regarding the most powerful instrument for the formation of public opinion in the modern world, the newspaper.

Two entire sessions were given to the industrial world : one dealt with the condition and protection of the toiler, and the other with the responsibility of the consumer. A somewhat novel but helpful session treated of the Ethics of Work with strong earnest speakers sounding warnings against overwork, misdirected effort and relative values of the different occupations.

It would seem that the Program Committee at Milwaukee had uppermost in their minds one thought which ran through every plan ; this thought was to make the convention helpful. Especially useful was a session upon the Opportunities of the Federation and another devoted to a group of important subjects. Many things were advocated by the speakers at these meetings which have since become a part of the General Federation ; notable among these was the suggestion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard Thompson of Michigan, who again urged that the General Federation should establish a national bureau of reciprocity, a seed which

took root and bore fruit several years later in the establishment of the General Federation Bureau of Information. Another seed was sown by Miss L. W. Perkins of Massachusetts, whose paper on Civil Service Reform was presented by Miss Helen A. Whittier of Massachusetts. In her paper Miss Perkins made a strong plea for an interest in this vital subject, and the discussion which followed showed conclusively that the seed fell upon fertile soil, there to germinate and, at a later Biennial, to bear fruit.

A unique and delightful session was the evening with Our Own Authors, during which excellent addresses were made by Mrs. Kate Upson Clark and Miss Alice French, better known to the reading world as Octave Thanet. Original poems from the pens of Mrs. Alice Williams Brotherton and Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson were also presented. The last evening of the Biennial might well have been called a Second Evening with Our Own Authors; but the local press styled it The Love Feast, and it may be well to let it be known by that name, for it was throughout an expression of club loyalty and comradeship.

The speakers were Robert J. Burdette, Mrs. Robert J. Burdette, Mrs. Sallie Joy White, Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, Mrs. Frederick Nathan, Octave Thanet and Mme. Friedland, a visiting Russian woman who had been present at the entire convention. The addresses were free, spontaneous and encouraging, the result of a week's profitable sojourn in a helpful and inspirational atmosphere.

A resolution of appreciation was adopted as follows :

*Resolved*, That in the death of Mrs. Lucinda Hinsdale Stone, Ph.D., which occurred at her home in Kalamazoo,



Michigan, March 14, 1900, the Woman's Club Movement and the cause of woman and education, humanity and progress, have lost one of the foremost workers of the age and one who made an impress on the life and thought of her time not exceeded by any other woman.

*Resolved*, Also, that we pay the tribute of our loving recognition and appreciation of the worth and work of this great and gentle soul, and that we dedicate ourselves to that high ideal of usefulness of which her long life of eighty-five years was a full and constant expression, — the highest possible development of self for service to others.

Favorable action was taken by the convention upon the following resolutions, presented through the Committee on Resolutions :

*Whereas*, Realizing the need of greater vigilance in regard to sanitation ; be it

*Resolved*, That this Federation recommend greater care in the disposal of household waste, the removal and disposition to be under the supervision of city or town authorities.

2nd. Preservation of the natural beauty of places, the improvement of streets, roads and pathways in rural places. Intelligent tree planting. To forbid the use of small streams as sewers, encouraging the maintenance of swimming pools, and beautifying the banks of streams.

3rd. To appeal to Legislation to prohibit the use of river banks as dumping grounds.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Board of Education elected by the people are further removed from the baneful influence of politics than the members of a Board of Education by appointment.

*Whereas*, The difference in the protective legislation in behalf of women and children in the different states is such as to promote that form of competition which strengthens the worst condition of society ; and,

*Whereas*, In consequence we find those sections of the country having good protective legislation at the mercy of those having the poorest; be it

*Resolved*, That the G. F. W. C. urges its members to work in their localities for such industrial legislation protecting women and children as shall equal the best already enacted in any state.

As the preservation of the Palisades is a national question, be it

*Resolved*, That the Convention of Women's Clubs assembled in Milwaukee indorse the action of the New York and New Jersey State Federations of Women's Clubs in their efforts to save this national landmark.

*Resolved*, That the women of the federated clubs, included in the states of the original "Louisiana Purchase," arrange for a suitable celebration, in 1903, of the one hundredth anniversary of the event of this purchase by the United States.

That the program for such meeting be of a patriotic character suitable to the occasion, — the time, place and program to be decided upon by a committee chosen for this purpose.

*Resolved*, That the State of Missouri in its proposed Fair having taken the initiative, the states belonging to the original Louisiana Purchase act in conjunction with the Missouri federated clubs, for the successful completion of this project; and

*Resolved*, That the Louisiana Purchase being of such great importance to the entire United States, these federated clubs invite those of all the other states and territories to unite with them for some suitable permanent memorial of this event.

In order to give time for a fitting consummation of this plan this memorial is respectfully submitted to the Federation assembled in 1900.

The convention also adopted, as the official organ of the General Federation, the *Club Woman* edited by Miss



Helen M. Winslow of Massachusetts. This club magazine under Miss Winslow's editorship deserves more than passing notice, for in many ways its strong, helpful, conservative columns have never been improved upon by the many excellent club publications which have followed in its wake.

An important matter acted upon by this convention was the decision to reincorporate and to secure a national charter for the General Federation.

The appointment of the State Chairman of Correspondence was changed, and power to appoint was vested in the State Federation President and Executive Board in all states and territories where such federations existed, and wherever no federations existed the Board of Directors of the General Federation were given power to appoint a committee of three, who were to have charge of all General Federation business of the state.

The ticket presented by the Nominating Committee was elected, although members from the floor placed Miss Margaret J. Evans of Minnesota in nomination for President. The officers elected were:

President, Mrs. Rebecca Douglas Lowe, Georgia.

First Vice President, Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison, New York.

Second Vice President, Miss Margaret J. Evans, Minnesota.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Michigan.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Jr., Pennsylvania.

Treasurer, Mrs. Emma M. Van Vechten, Iowa.

Auditor, Mrs. George H. Noyes, Wisconsin.

Directors:

Mrs. Edward L. Buchwalter, Ohio.

Mrs. William J. Christie, Montana.

Mrs. William T. Coad, South Dakota.

Mrs. Cornelia C. Fairbanks, Indiana.

Mrs. Mary Smith Lockwood, District of Columbia.

Mrs. Lora Rockwell Priddy, Kansas.

Mrs. Frank Sherwin Streeter, New Hampshire.

Mrs. Anna D. West, Massachusetts.

It had been a convention full of wonderful progress. The clubwomen of Milwaukee and of the entire Wisconsin federation had spared no effort to make this Biennial the equal, if not the superior, of any that had been held. The Biennial Committee and the local Biennial Board seemed to have anticipated every need for the improvement and refreshment of both mental and physical attributes of woman. Orderliness, harmony and beauty were in evidence everywhere. There were ample accommodations and each one seemed satisfied with the lot which fell to her. The fifth Biennial was adjourned and its deliberations passed into history.

Just at the opening of a new century, when all the world was taking account of themselves and the progress of mankind, several hundred women, representing many thousands of organized workers, had demonstrated that it was possible for women to hold a convention devoted to the best interests of humanity; to agree and to disagree with dignity and composure; to hold high ideals without the loss of womanly attributes; to reach out of their own stronghold, the individual home, to consider the needs and demands of the community home, the world; to serve not blindly but with a growing intelligence; to add to the faith of former years work in the present day world.



## THE SIXTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DURING the biennial period following the Milwaukee Biennial three meetings were held by the Board of Directors: one at New York City in November, 1900; one in Washington, District of Columbia, in February, 1901; and one in New York City in November, 1901. At these meetings many matters of business received attention. An effort was made to secure a standing committee on music; but this was unsuccessful, and for several years it was deemed unnecessary that such a step should be taken. Indorsement of the Wise bill which had been introduced at Congress, encouraging industrial schools for colored people in the South, was secured without opposition. An Executive Committee of three was appointed, consisting of the President, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Buchwalter and Mrs. Lockwood. A Membership Committee of five was also appointed. The members chosen for this committee were Mrs. Denison, Mrs. Van Vechten, Mrs. Kendrick, Mrs. West and Mrs. Hanger.

The members appointed for the Education Committee were Miss Ellen C. Sabin of Wisconsin, chairman, Dr. Lucy L. W. Wilson of Pennsylvania, Mrs. May Alden Ward of Massachusetts, Miss Lizzie L. Bloomstein of Tennessee and Miss Clara D. Coe of South Dakota.







MRS. DIMIES T. S. DENISON

The members chosen for the Committee on the Industrial Problem as it affects Women and Children were Mrs. Florence Kelley of New York City, chairman, Miss May Haggbotham of Pennsylvania, Mrs. James Humphrey of Kansas, Mrs. J. Lindsay Johnson of Georgia and Mrs. Levi Young of Oregon.

The members named on the Art Committee were Mrs. A. H. Brockway of New York, chairman, Mrs. Sidney J. Parsons of California, Mrs. William E. Thompson of Minnesota, Mrs. Julia Osgood of Massachusetts, and Miss Clara C. Newton of Ohio.

Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood of Washington, District of Columbia, was elected chairman of the Committee on Reincorporation; with Mrs. Cornelia C. Fairbanks of Indiana, Mrs. Lucia E. Blount of the District of Columbia, Mrs. Mary E. Trautman of New York and Mrs. John L. McNeil of Colorado as members of the committee.

At the first meeting of the Board in New York, Mrs. Lowe had been excused by advice of her physician from all duties connected with the presidency until she should be considered by her physician to be able to take up active work again. This action placed the duties of the President upon the First Vice President, Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison of New York, who thus became acting President of the General Federation.

The Executive Committee was directed to appoint General Federation committees in Alabama, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Virginia and Wyoming, all states where no state federation was in existence. A letter of inquiry was received from the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs asking if that body was eligible to membership in the



General Federation of Women's Clubs, with further inquiries regarding the standing, dues and representation of said Union in the event of such action being taken. The matter caused considerable discussion and a reply was sent stating that the Union was eligible, that a payment of one dollar (\$1) per club would be required and the basis of representation would be upon the same basis as that of state federations. It was further stated that the Union would be received simply as a union of literary clubs.

A Program Committee for the Sixth Biennial was named with Mrs. L. A. Priddy of Kansas as chairman, and Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison of New York, Mrs. Robert E. Wiles of Illinois and Mrs. Anna D. West of Massachusetts as members.

A communication received from the secretary of the Woman's Era Club showed that no recession from their former claim of full membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs had been taken by that club.

A Reciprocity Committee was created, and the Executive Committee was instructed not to admit secret societies to membership in the General Federation. A Biennial Committee whose duties should not conflict with those of the Program Committee was appointed with Mrs. E. L. Buchwalter of Ohio as chairman.

The action of the Wednesday Club of St. Louis, Missouri, in suggesting the name of Mrs. Philip N. Moore of that city as a member of the Board of Lady Managers of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to be held in 1903, was indorsed by the Board in Washington.

It was also decided to restrict the use of the General Federation introduction cards to members of clubs belonging to the General Federation. The invitation from

Los Angeles to hold the Sixth Biennial in that city was accepted by the Board in Washington.

As a result of the work of a committee appointed for the purpose of more clearly defining the still perplexing question of the duties of the General Federation Secretary, the Board of Directors issued the following as a guide to those officers in the discharge of their duties :

1. The Federation Secretary shall be a means of communication between the State and the General Federation.

2. She shall perform the clerical work relating to the General Federation and shall forward all applications for membership to the President of the General Federation.

3. It shall be her duty to assist the president of the state federation in promoting the interests of the General Federation in her state and endeavor to bring clubs not belonging to the General Federation into this organization.

4. She shall be appointed a delegate from the state federation to attend the biennial meetings, and in the absence of the state president she shall perform her duties at the Biennial.

#### SIXTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — LOS ANGELES

The Sixth Biennial was held at Los Angeles, California, May 1-8, 1902.

The standing committees had been active since the last Biennial and in June, 1901, a very comprehensive circular was sent by the Art Committee to all foreign and domestic clubs. This circular was in reality a concise report of what was at that time being accomplished by skilled women in certain definite lines of fine and applied arts. The information contained in the circu-



lar had been gathered together by experts, and was of great value to the clubwomen, in that it served both as guide and stimulus, a guide to those who wished to enter any avenue of applied art and a stimulus to those who were already in the artistic field of endeavor. There were sections setting forth the work of women as architects, as sculptors, as painters, as potters, as photographers, as bookbinders and leatherworkers, as workers in glass mosaics, landscape gardening, home weaving and native arts and crafts. The circular was profitable and interesting alike to clubwomen and to the public at large. Bibliographies with suggestions for the study of the history of art and of literature as illustrated by art were furnished upon request by members of the committee, and much advice was given in response to inquiries concerning schoolroom decoration. Arrangements were made with an art publishing house of Paris and New York to supply the clubs of the Federation, for art libraries and other study purposes, with photographs of pictures at a nominal rate and free of duty. In this way there was placed within the reach of even the most remote club facilities for the study of famous works of art. Three thousand circulars were distributed and a widespread interest was awakened. At the Biennial the Art Sessions presented the subjects of out-of-door art, photography, bookbinding, leather work, ceramics and glass mosaics, arts and crafts of the Indian, and why and how to study art.

The Committee on Education during these two years had worked out the suggestions given by their predecessors. The interest in education had been almost the first sign of social service which the General Federation had given, and as the years passed by it was more

and more evident that this interest was deep-rooted in the hearts of clubwomen. The bare enumeration of the topics included under the head of education in the study club programs would alone bear telling testimony of the zeal with which information along educational lines was being pursued. These topics ranged from the condition of education in the sparsely settled frontier to that in the concentrated life of the great city; from questions of international scope to those of the school in the remote rural community; from the academic curriculum to the introduction of manual training and domestic science in the grade schools; from the kindergarten to the college. That these topics were not merely for study but also for intelligent service was shown in the practical work which was reported from all sides. Both moral and financial support were given freely to supplement regular appropriations and supervision. School hygiene, schoolroom decorations, playgrounds, vacation schools, and school libraries were established, as well as many other expressions of the philanthropic impulse of the awakened interest among clubwomen. A very notable feature of the efforts put forward by clubwomen was the establishing of scholarships. At the Los Angeles Biennial, Illinois reported that one club alone paid the tuition of nineteen girls in college or university; another had raised eight thousand dollars for a university; the state federation in South Carolina controlled fifty-two scholarships in schools and colleges for the aid of the young women of that state; and Tennessee clubwomen were sending teachers among the mountain settlements. In several states, the local Committee on Education, encouraged by the General Federation Committee, has greatly aided the passage



of more favorable school laws and has been most successful in placing an increased number of women upon school boards and upon the governing boards of educational and philanthropic institutions. Many sections were selecting special branches of educational work ; and school improvement leagues, parents' and teachers' associations, civic clubs of pupils, and club study classes were increasing with rapidity. It would have been impossible for any close observer to overlook the part which clubwomen were taking in educational progress. The report of the Education Committee to the Biennial closed with these words :

“ Lastly and always, the ethical aspect of every school subject must receive our unswerving loyalty and unremitting attention. The moral tendency of every method, the moral influence of every element of the environment within the school and in the community tributary to the school, must receive intelligent examination as the fundamental consideration in education, as it is, also, the most fruitful and important field of effort.”

The educational session of the Biennial was devoted to a presentation of the Advantages of Coeducation, by Miss Mabel Craft, and discussed by President Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California.

Household Economics as a Pertinent Factor of Education was presented by Mrs. Linda Hull Larned of New York, and discussion was sustained by Mrs. Arthur C. Neville of Wisconsin.

#### AROUSING SENTIMENT FOR THE WORKING CHILD

The Committee on the Industrial Problem as it affects Women and Children carried on, through

the entire interconvention period, a campaign of education. The chairman, Mrs. Florence Kelley, a woman of judgment and experience, realized fully that before any intelligent work could be accomplished it was necessary to collect and distribute a considerable amount of information among clubwomen generally. The committee also felt the need of encouraging organization among the women who labor and securing the emancipation of children from overwork in the early and formative period of life. During these years a great advance was made in arousing sentiment on behalf of the working child. No woman at the Los Angeles Biennial could have failed to be greatly impressed by the address of Jane Addams of Illinois, in which she called attention to the temptation to employ women and children in factories, which had greatly increased with the introduction of machinery. She emphasized the social, moral and mental waste to the nation which child labor entailed.

The Club Movement among Working Women was treated by Miss Jean Hamilton, Secretary of the National League of Women Workers, and the Consumers' League was the subject of an address by Mrs. Elmer B. Jones of Utah. A second session of the Industrial Committee was devoted to the subject, "Educating the Purchaser: How Shall it be Done?" by Mrs. Frederick Nathan of New York. Following this address Mrs. Kelley presented these resolutions:

*Whereas*, Great diversity prevails in the legislation of the different states dealing with child labor; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the clubs strive during the coming two years to obtain the enactment and enforcement of laws uniform in all the states requiring every child to attend



school throughout the full term until the child reaches the age of fourteen years ;

*Resolved*, That where there is a child labor law, we strive to secure its enforcement, and where there is no such law we procure its enactment.

Mrs. J. Lindsay Johnson of Georgia presented the subject of Child Labor in the South, which was immediately followed by resolutions presented by Mrs. Kelley :

*Whereas*, Heretofore expositions have been held to exhibit the products of manufacture without regard to the conditions of manufacture, and

*Whereas*, In the awarding of honors to exhibitors, no attention has heretofore been paid as to whether the methods of production were such as to menace the health or morality of the producers, or whether the state factory laws had been violated ; and

*Whereas*, Our sense of justice demands that competition should be on a high plane and that an exposition should be composed only of exhibits of work done according to the most enlightened, ethical and moral methods, be it

*Resolved*, We, the clubwomen of America, petition the Directors of the St. Louis Exposition to take under consideration the following points :

1. Granting space to applicants to require specific information regarding the conditions of labor involved in the manufacture of the product.

2. To refuse space to applicants who, according to the factory inspectors' reports, have violated the factory laws.

3. In the award of prizes to take into consideration humane and enlightened conditions of employment in the manufacture of the articles exhibited.

A paper given by Mrs. Noble Prentiss of Missouri entitled "Women as Employers and Employees in the Home" closed this most intensely interesting session.

A very valuable circular, the opening paragraphs of which are herewith appended, was sent out in September, 1901, by the Industrial Committee:

"It is the object of this committee to bring to the attention of the clubs some of the ways in which the industrial problem as it affects women and children affects us, and some of the ways in which we may affect it. It is believed that the vast power of intelligent women to contribute, at once, toward a peaceful and beneficent solution of the industrial problem is not generally appreciated.

"The industrial problem as it affects women and children was never so complicated as at the present day. The very existence of the Federation, and of the clubs which form it, is due to the fact that the industries have gone out of the homes of the prosperous, leaving to the women in those homes leisure for study, recreation, and philanthropy. But these industries have largely gone into the homes of the poor, ruining the domestic life of the home workers and threatening the life and health of those who buy the products (this is especially true of the needle trades). On the other hand, manufacture and commerce have largely drawn from the homes of the wage workers the women and children to work in factories, workshops, stores, offices and public-service employment.

"For these reasons, the Committee on the Industrial Problem asks that each club will give at least one program during the coming season to the consideration of one or more of the aspects of the problem suggested below. In connection with aspect 3, it is desirable to consider the following questions: What is the legal age for employing children in your state? Have you a woman factory inspector? Is there a license law for manufacture in homes? What is the legal working day?"

To this circular was appended a most valuable list of references of persons, pamphlets and printed matter,



thus affording to the clubwomen better facilities for the study of the industrial problem as it affects women and children. A circular showing in tabular form the child labor legislation in the various states was distributed to all delegates at the Biennial, with the earnest recommendation of the committee that the General Federation work unceasingly for the enactment and enforcement of laws regulating child labor and enforcing compulsory school attendance.

The Committee on Forestry, with Mrs. Mary E. Mumford of Pennsylvania as chairman, had spent a great deal of time in gathering statistics regarding the work which had been done in the cause of forestry in the various states. Letters had been sent to all state federation presidents asking if the clubs in such states had done anything in the way of (1) urging the protection of forests from the ravages of fire and other devastation; (2) asking the protection of rivers for the sake of pure water supply; (3) securing reservations of land for recreation parks, or in order to preserve sites of unusual beauty or historic interest. Replies were received showing that many states had already bestirred themselves in these directions; and that these communications in almost every case had served to arouse them to a more serious consideration of the matter.

During the convention a short address was given by Mr. C. H. Boothe, President of the National Irrigation Association, which was followed by the presentation and adoption of the following resolutions:

Indorsing the declaration of President Roosevelt in his recent message to Congress that "Successful home-making is but another name for the upbuilding of the nation";

And believing also, with the Secretary of the Interior, that "There is no question now before the people of the United States of greater importance than the conservation of the water supply and the reclamation of the arid lands of the West, and their settlement by men who will actually build homes and create communities,"

*Be it resolved*, By the General Federation of Women's Clubs, in session at Los Angeles, California, That we urge upon Congress the construction of reservoirs and irrigation works wherever necessary for the reclamation and settlement of the great public domain, to the end that this vast area of now desert land may be taken up by actual settlers only, and become the homes of millions of prosperous and contented American citizens.

During the months just preceding the convention, word had been received that Mrs. Jennie C. Croly, founder of Sorosis and most active in the foundation of the General Federation, had died. This intelligence brought great grief, especially to the older members of the General Federation who had worked with Mrs. Croly in the earlier days and appreciated fully the value of her work in their behalf. The convention unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

*Whereas*, Mrs. Jennie C. Croly of New York, the founder of so large a part of woman's work in America, has been called to the higher courts of heavenly usefulness, be it

*Resolved*, That this convention express its deep sense of the loss which has been sustained in Mrs. Croly's death, and that the memory of her broad wisdom and kindly consideration for every struggling woman will remain always as an inspiration to us and our successors.

*Resolved*, That the sympathy of this convention be extended to Mrs. Croly's family.



The Committee on Reincorporation, of which Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood of the District of Columbia was chairman, had been active, and the incorporation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs as a federal organization had been secured. The committee had held several meetings, and, with the help of legal advice, had prepared the articles of incorporation during the last days of Congress. The names of such pioneer workers as still remained alive were given as incorporators. Great assistance was rendered the committee by Senator Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana, who personally attended to its progress. The last day and the last hour of Congress arrived and the bill was not passed; but at the last minute word was received that House Bill 5715 had passed. The last act of the 56th Congress was the passage of the bill for the charter of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and it was also the last bill signed by President McKinley.\*

#### DEFINITE PROPOSITION FOR A BUREAU OF INFORMATION

The Committee on Reciprocity, Mrs. Philip N. Moore of St. Louis, chairman, offered an excellent report. No words can express the result of their work and research better than the report itself, which is given in part:

"Some months ago the Board of the General Federation considered the need of a National Reciprocity Committee from which, as a well-known central bureau, could be obtained papers and lectures and information upon all possible subjects, without going through the maze of correspondence now a necessity. Questions

\* See Part IV, Doc. IX.

### At the Second Session.

Begin and hold at the City of Washington on Monday the third day of November and  
thousand nine hundred

## ANALYTICAL

Granting a charter to the General Federation of Women, 1909

[illegible]

Sec. 2. That said corporation is authorized to acquire, by devise, bequest, or otherwise, hold, purchase and convey such real and personal estate as shall or may be required for the purposes of its incorporation, not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, with authority in said corporation, should it be by a deemed necessary so to do to mortgage or otherwise encumber the real estate which it may hereafter own or acquire, and may give therefor such evidence of indebtedness as such corporation may deem proper.

SEC. 3. That said corporation shall have a constitution and may adopt and amend by-laws for the admission and qualifications of members, the management of its property, and the regulation of its affairs, and shall have the power to amend and constitute and by-laws at pleasure. Said corporation shall have its headquarters at Washington, in the District of Columbia.

L. H. Wilson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved  
Travis

Presented at the August 1900 Session

At the Second Session.

Began and left at St. Charles, Washington on Monday the 27th day of November and  
 returned after breakfast and dinner.

## AN ACT

To amend an Act entitled "An Act granting a charter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs," approved March third, nineteen hundred and six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act granting a charter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs," approved March third, nineteen hundred and three, be, and it is hereby, amended by adding thereto one section, to be designated as section four, which will read as follows:

"Sec. 4. That said corporation be, and it is hereby, authorized to hold biennial meetings at such place outside of Washington, in the District of Columbia, as it from time to time may deem best."

14 Carraway

*M. J. H.*  
President of the Board of Directors

26. 27. 28. 29. 30.

44-281407

Glenore, Rochester





are constantly asked the officers, answers to which are impossible without again referring the correspondence to the different state committees. These committees are known only through their yearbooks, and each deals with the special needs of her own state.

“You will see at once the advisability of a ‘Bureau of Information,’ reciprocal in character.

“The committee consulted as to ways and means, dividing the various sections of the country for correspondence, and reporting to the chairman results, which have made us realize the widespread interest in, and need of, a central bureau. Some of the older established federations have found means of helping their own members, which have called out sincere longing and deepest interest from more newly federated states.

“From states where there are no organizations come most frequent calls upon this committee for help. The chairman has sent books of exchange, containing helpful suggestions, and referred often to neighboring states for special papers or lectures. While we commenced correspondence with the Reciprocity Committee only, the *Club Woman* has made the committee known to women all over the United States, and the work has resolved itself into a central bureau, whether we would or no.

“The committee hoped to have a tabulated circular in shape before this date, containing a certain amount of information which should go to every club, — thus referring questioners to the proper source at once. There was, however, a serious objection to carrying out this plan that came from immediate experience.

“In many cases clubs desired papers at once, and would be uncertain of their standard of excellence. No tabulated list would help us in this, and it seemed necessary to maintain a central bureau for the reception and distribution of papers.

“This, of course, a temporary committee would be unwilling to undertake, for the work should be planned by a committee appointed for the next two years’



interim. The work of filling requests would devolve on the secretary of such a committee and might be heavy. If it should be found impracticable for reciprocity to extend so far as this interchange of papers, lectures, etc., the work might be limited to the statement of lines of work and study found most valuable in many states.

“The committee hopes there will be no such limit.”

Here again was a definite proposition submitted to the convention for the establishment of a General Federation Bureau of Information. A session was devoted to the discussion of National Reciprocity, in which many representatives of state federations and independent clubs testified to the probable value of a reciprocity bureau, which, to use the words of Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams of Minnesota, “with its papers, yearbooks, programs and list of lectures would set the meets and bounds of the active principles of reciprocity. It is the Alpha and Omega of right living and selfless serving.” There was general approval of the recommendations of the committee and the resolutions submitted were adopted by unanimous vote.

The preparation for the Los Angeles Biennial equaled in elaborateness of detail and execution those which had preceded it. The local Biennial Board, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles of Los Angeles, had been divided into committees of every possible conception and duty, and each had vied with the other to attain perfection of results. The opening of the Biennial and the magnificent display of flowers and foliage which only Southern California could produce was beautiful and impressive. The governor of California, the mayor of Los Angeles, the president of the California Federation, and the president of the local Biennial Board

welcomed the great congress which had gathered from North, South, East and West.

The house rules were formulated with a view to the control and regulation of a busy convention and were as follows :

1. A member who has offered a motion or presented a report of a committee shall be first entitled to the floor for debate, and shall also be allowed to close debate.

2. With this exception no member shall speak more than twice to the same question.

3. In all business meetings, speakers shall be limited to three minutes, unless time is extended by the unanimous consent of the house.

4. No motion shall be allowed as a question of privilege except a motion relating to the rights and privileges of the Federation, or some member of the Federation.

5. The previous question shall be stated by the chair as follows ; "It is moved and seconded that debate now cease." The previous question shall be put to vote as follows : "Those in favor of closing the debate," etc.

6. No delegate shall represent more than one club organization.

7. No proxies shall be allowed.

8. All motions must be in writing, and sent to the Recording Secretary.

9. The vote on the proposed amendment to Article I, Section 1, and on the proposed amendment to Article II, Section 2, shall be by ballot.

Ballots shall be printed so that an X inserted in a square preceding the word "Yes" or the word "No" shall indicate the vote.

10. In all other meetings, time of speakers is not to be extended by request from the floor.

Many matters of varying importance were acted upon during the business session. Mrs. Caroline M.



Severance, formerly of Massachusetts but later of California, and Mrs. Rebekah Spring, also of California, were made Honorary Vice Presidents of the General Federation; standing committees on Civil Service Reform, on Forestry and Irrigation, on Civics, were authorized; telegrams of sympathy were sent to Mrs. Potter Palmer, to Wilhelmina, Queen of Holland, and to Mrs. Sampson, wife of Admiral Sampson.

The delegate body of one thousand and forty women represented seven hundred and sixty-three clubs with a membership of seven hundred and twenty thousand five hundred; four district federations with a membership of four thousand; and thirty-nine state federations of three thousand two hundred and seventy-five clubs and two hundred and eleven thousand seven hundred and sixty-three members. The condition of the treasury was satisfactory and the Federation congratulated itself upon its prosperous and healthy condition.

Among the sessions was one devoted to the Press, another to Literature, a third touching Association Progress, a fourth to Civil Service Reform, a fifth to the Traveling Library, and others to subjects of vital interest. Excursions, receptions and complimentary entertainments enlivened the week and relieved the tedium of continual high thinking.

#### COMPROMISE WITHOUT REORGANIZATION

During the preceding two years since the Milwaukee Convention the Reorganization Committee had not been idle; communications had been sent to each state asking that the matter pertaining to reorganization be taken up at local meetings so that delegates to the Bi-

ennial might be prepared to vote intelligently and calmly whenever the question should arise. The *Club Woman* had established a column entitled "The Open Arena," wherein the views of clubwomen from various sections of the country were debated. Two plans had taken definite shape and were known by the names of the states which were most ardent in their support. The Massachusetts plan at the outset protested vigorously against the introduction of the word "white" into the by-laws of the General Federation and opposed any other amendment to the by-laws which should introduce a race qualification. The Georgia plan desired that the by-laws should be amended so that no possibility of doubt should remain regarding the admission of clubs of colored women.

In further elucidation of the matter the Massachusetts plan provided that the General Federation should be composed entirely of state federations, each state organization being free to control its membership as desired; thus Massachusetts or any other state might admit colored clubs and Georgia and others might exclude them. In this way the color question would be taken out of the General Federation. The Georgia plan excluded state federations entirely from membership in the General Federation and limited the membership therein to independent clubs of white women. These plans were so widely divergent that as time passed and the Biennial season approached it became clearly evident that some compromise must be effected if the integrity of the General Federation was to be preserved, and the Board of Directors recommended a conference between Georgia and Massachusetts in the hope that some middle ground might be reached. The conference



was held February 6 and 7, 1902. After two days' discussion a compromise plan was reached. The plan was based upon a suggestion of the Wednesday Club of St. Louis, Missouri, that the color question might be settled by the application of the principle of state rights without reorganization.\*

Much good resulted from this conference and a substitute amendment was submitted to the convention; but, notwithstanding the fact that a large degree of harmony had been secured between the two states that had assumed the lead in the controversy, there remained much strength of individual feeling; and it is safe to record that at no time during the Los Angeles Biennial was the interest in any matter so keen and absorbing as to crowd completely from the minds of the delegate body the reorganization plan and the so-called color question. Printed matter had been distributed widely, even up to the time of the departure of the delegates for the convention; the matter had been discussed at many state federation meetings; protests had been received from independent clubs, individual club members and state boards; and when the question was reached in the business session every delegate had formed an opinion as to the way in which the matter should be settled. The compromise amendment which was finally passed was satisfactory to a large majority of the delegates, and it was clear even to those who were most assertive in their opposition that the adoption of that amendment would be the most harmonious of any possible action. The amendment was to insert, in Article II of the by-laws, between Section 1 and Section 2 the following:

\* See Part IV, Doc. X.

Section 2. From a state where a club is a member of the State Federation, it would also be eligible to the General Federation if recommended to its Executive Board by the Executive Board of the State Federation; the power of admission to remain as given in Article II of the by-laws, as follows:

Section 3. The President shall refer all applications for membership to the Committee on Membership appointed by the Board of Directors, for its action upon the same. The action of the Committee on Membership shall be in writing, and a unanimous vote of the committee shall be required to elect. In case the committee fails to agree, the application shall be referred to the whole Board, the written vote of two thirds of which shall be necessary to elect to membership.

Other changes in the by-laws were effected touching the question of dues, representation and the duties of the General Federation Secretary.\*

#### PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

At the fifth Biennial at Milwaukee, action was taken directing the states of the Louisiana Purchase to arrange for a suitable celebration in 1903 of the one hundredth anniversary of this purchase by the United States. At the same time the states of the original Louisiana Purchase were to act as a committee, in conjunction with the federated clubs of Missouri, in carrying out this project. The third resolution ordered this committee to invite all other states and territories to unite in the celebration, and to take necessary measures toward presenting some suitable permanent memorial of this event.

Two meetings of this committee were held: one in

\* See Part IV, Doc. XI.



Kansas City, to which clubs from all the Louisiana Purchase states were invited; and the second in St. Louis, to which (by motion of the first meeting) only one representative from each state should be made a member of the committee. At the first meeting in Kansas City there was no definite idea of program, only one decision being made, that the place for the celebration should be St. Louis. Innumerable suggestions for the form of the memorial were brought forward, and it was decided to use the "process of elimination" among the states, that definite action might be taken at the next meeting. At the second meeting, in St. Louis, eight of the thirteen members were present, and letters of definite decision from three others. Upon motion, the Texas representative was granted the privilege of membership in the committee.

The committee adopted the general outline of program, offered by Missouri through Mrs. Henry W. Eliot. This program had been printed in the *Club Woman*, and is filed with the report. It may be briefly given as follows: Two days are assigned to the celebration, the morning of the first being given up to committee meetings and other necessary preliminaries, — the actual program commencing in the afternoon with addresses of welcome and responses, an oration, patriotic in character, by some speaker of national reputation. An entertainment and reception in the evening.

The second day will be in charge of the states named in the Purchase, the general tenor of the program being in answer to the question, "What is being done to promote good citizenship in each state of the Louisiana Purchase?" The evening of the second day will be devoted to historic tableaux.

The committee resolved that all necessary expense connected with this program should be met by the General Federation, with the exception of (1) the part taken by the states the second day, and (2) the evening of historic tableaux which should be further considered and reported back for action by the committee.

The committee also recommended that the date for the celebration be during the week of October 17, that being the date of the ratification of the purchase by the United States Senate in 1803.

The date of the exposition being very uncertain, the committee further recommended that, in the event of its postponement, the General Federation celebration should be deferred so as to occur at the same time.

The committee appointed Mrs. Philip N. Moore chairman of subcommittee to carry out the program, with Mrs. Henry W. Eliot as a member, and with power to name other members of the committee.

By the "process of elimination" to which we have referred, the states presented four distinct projects for a permanent memorial :

1st. An artistic type, which might consist of a painting, monument, statue, or fountain.

2d. An educational endowment; that a sum of from fifty thousand dollars to seventy-five thousand dollars be raised and invested in government bonds, as a permanent fund, the interest to be used for the education of those of rare talent but of limited means.

3d. General Federation headquarters, for which one hundred and fifty thousand dollars might be raised by clubs and individual subscription among members of the General Federation, part to be used for the erection of a building, and the remainder for its maintenance. This building should be used as headquarters for all



branches of work carried on by the General Federation, a Reciprocity Bureau.

4th. The Hall of Philanthropy, for which one hundred and fifty thousand dollars would be raised (a permanent building to be used by the General Federation), part of the money for erection and part for maintenance.

It was expected that charitable organizations and individuals would contribute to the endowment fund.

The resolution was adopted unanimously that the General Federation should plan a permanent memorial, but long discussion brought the members no nearer a decision as to the special form than when first considered. The committee therefore presented the following preamble and resolution to the General Federation :

*Whereas*, In view of the largeness of the proposition presented to the Louisiana Purchase States Committee, and in consideration of the diversity of interests in the General Federation, each and all of which should receive recognition, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the question of a permanent memorial to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase be reverted to the General Federation for settlement, at the Biennial at Los Angeles.

The committee urges consideration and decision. The sums of money to be raised for any project require most careful planning, and, as the present committee has charge of the celebration program, it begs the General Federation to appoint another committee to raise funds and erect the permanent memorial.

Respectfully submitted,

Arkansas, MRS. WM. M. NEAL.

Colorado, MRS. THEODORE M. HARDIN.

Iowa, MRS. A. J. BARKLEY.

Kansas, MRS. W. A. JOHNSTON

Louisiana, MISS LAVINIA H. EGAN.

Minnesota, MRS. C. W. WELLS.

Nebraska, MRS. DRAPER SMITH.

Oklahoma, MRS. SELWYN DOUGLAS.

Texas, MRS. PERCY V. PENNYBACKER.

Missouri, MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE,  
*Chairman.*

Montana,	}	Gave no signatures of appointment.
North Dakota,		
South Dakota,		
Wyoming,		

The resolution of the committee was adopted by the Federation and further steps in the matter were left in the hands of the Board of Directors. A memorial tablet was decided upon by that body and its presentation became a part of the proceedings of the seventh Biennial.

The Nominating Committee brought to the convention the following report :

For President, Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison, New York.

For First Vice President, Mrs. Robert J. Burdette, California.

For Second Vice President, Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Michigan.

For Recording Secretary, Mrs. William T. Coad, South Dakota.

For Corresponding Secretary, Miss Louisa B. Popenheim, South Carolina.

For Treasurer, Mrs. Emma M. Van Vechten, Iowa.

For Auditor, Mrs. George H. Noyes, Wisconsin.

For Directors :

Mrs. Anna D. West, Massachusetts.

Mrs. J. C. Terrell, Texas.

Mrs. James Humphrey, Kansas.



Mrs. Lydia P. Williams, Minnesota.

Mrs. Samuel H. Hays, Idaho.

Mrs. William M. Ellicott, Maryland.

Mrs. Willard W. Boyd, Missouri.

Mrs. W. A. Nelden, Utah.

Immediately following the report of the Nominating Committee there was a determined effort from the floor to place in nomination for President Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, whose popularity had never waned from the time when, as president of the Denver Woman's Club, she had welcomed the Biennial to that city. Mrs. Decker protested against this action on the part of her friends and refused absolutely to have her name appear as a candidate for the office.

With the exception of Mrs. William M. Ellicott of Maryland, the names as reported by the Nominating Committee were elected by the convention. The eighth Director elected was Mrs. John M. Carter of Maryland.

The Sixth Biennial adjourned May 18, 1902, and the *Los Angeles Daily Times* deemed the convention of sufficient importance to issue a supplement devoted to its interest. In commenting upon the week's work that paper says :

“ An account of stock shows certainly that the assembly was the most profitable ever held by the organization : the delighted visitors testify with one voice that it was the greatest for enjoyment. The attendance was the largest on record, and the delegates are returning to their homes all over the country satisfied and happy. Altogether the results of the Sixth Biennial are a subject for general congratulation. Brilliant papers were read during its sessions, stirring speeches were made on many topics, industrial, philanthropic, educational and liter-

ary. The color line has been passed with little friction, and the question is now a buried issue. The unity of the Federation has been preserved, and North and South have forgotten their difference in a new and stronger union, the result of mutual courtesy and concession."



## THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### WORK OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOLLOWING the Los Angeles Biennial the Board of Directors held four meetings: one at Los Angeles, California, immediately after the adjournment of the Sixth Biennial; one at Washington, District of Columbia, November 11 and 12, 1902; one at St. Louis, Missouri, November 19, 20, and 21, 1903; and the fourth, just prior to the seventh Biennial, at St. Louis, May 16, 1904.

The work of the Board at these meetings covered the appointment of committees and other matters of minor importance. The executive committee of the Board were chosen with Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison, chairman, and Mrs. Anna D. West and Mrs. Emma Fox, members.

The chairmen of the standing committees were: Art, Mrs. Charles C. Stein, Colorado; Civics, Mrs. Ralph Trautman, New York; Civil Service Reform, Miss Georgie A. Bacon, Massachusetts; Education, Miss Margaret J. Evans, Minnesota; Forestry, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Pennsylvania; Household Economics, Mrs. Arthur C. Neville, Wisconsin; Industrial, Mrs. Frederick Nathan, New York, with subcommittee on Child Labor under Miss Jane Addams, Illinois, chairman; Legislation, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, Pennsylvania; Library Extension, Mrs. Charles A. Perkins, Tennessee.

A membership committee was appointed with Mrs. Emma M. Van Vechten of Iowa, chairman, and Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim of South Carolina, Mrs. W. W. Boyd of Missouri, Mrs. Draper Smith of Nebraska and Miss Dotha Stone Pinneo of Connecticut as members.

Mrs. George A. Noyes of Wisconsin was made chairman of the Biennial Committee, and Mrs. Anna D. West was made chairman of the Program Committee of the Seventh Biennial.

St. Louis was chosen as the convention city of the Seventh Biennial.

The Treasurer was placed under a \$12,000 bond and a safety vault was selected at Washington, District of Columbia, for the care of the most valuable records, and resolutions were adopted that transferred all property and authority from the New Jersey corporation to the Federal corporation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

A very helpful and instructive open letter was sent out by the Board of Directors in May, 1903. This letter was an instrument of propaganda and was so used by clubwomen everywhere. It set forth the value of federation and emphasized the great assistance which the General Federation could be to any local interest. This valuable communication closed with these words:

“So long as children six years of age are employed in mills and factories in any part of the United States, and there is the crying need for uniform laws regarding child labor; so long as six hundred million dollars is wasted every year in housekeeping in America for want of knowledge of household economics; so long as women who live in mountains or on prairies are hungry for books and art; so long as there is need of the creation of general sentiment for national irrigation bills that



homes for women and children may be created and preserved; so long as the most vital work of social betterment can only bring results by coöperation, — can it be that any club can say it has no responsibility in the larger work, that it is enough that it dust its own room? Or if it take a hand in the world outside its own door, can it wisely say it proposes to sweep in any direction it desires?

“We ask you to appreciate the high place among the world’s workers which has been secured to you by effective organization; to note, by a bird’s-eye view of the great field of human activities and needs that, while so much has been accomplished, yet much more needs to be done; differentiate what you can do for your own club, your own state, and your own General Federation; give then to each your active membership, your loyalty, your suggestion directly, your contribution of prompt response, and hearty coöperation — to each, in its due proportion.

“So may we all realize the value of being an integral part of a great potential force for service to humanity, through an organization that has more varied interests, greater possible power and more direct effectiveness than any other among women, this clubwomen’s trinity of Club, State, and General Federation — ‘a threefold cord which is not easily broken.’”

#### SEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — ST. LOUIS

The convention which assembled at St. Louis from May 17 to 25, 1904, had a representative body of one thousand two hundred and forty-three, of whom nine hundred and twenty-four were entitled to vote and three hundred and nineteen were alternates.

At that time the General Federation included forty-five state federations with a membership of about three hundred thousand; four distinct federations with a

membership of about forty-two clubs; six city federations with a membership of one hundred clubs; two national societies and nine hundred and seventy-one individual clubs with a membership of about ninety thousand active members.

The Committee on Education, during the biennial period which had elapsed since the Los Angeles Convention, had continued a policy of agitation of educational subjects. Through the columns of various club magazines and by means of the circular sent out to all clubs, as well as by coöperation with various established educational mediums, they had kept in touch with the workers in the different states.

#### PROGRESS ALONG MANY LINES

At the convention there was reported much progress along many lines, including the establishment of free kindergartens, manual training schools, vacation schools, playgrounds, school legislation and school-house and yard decorations. Among the concrete examples of growth were the fifty-eight free kindergartens of Texas; the scholarships in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Texas, California, Kansas and South Carolina. The latter federation reported sixty-one scholarships. From Illinois came the report of several scholarships to reimburse widowed mothers for the loss of the wages of their children now required to attend school. At the educational session were presented the subjects of Compulsory Education, Moral Instruction and a Unified System of Education in the United States.

There had been an almost phenomenal growth of



interest in the subject of Civil Service Reform through the efforts of the chairman of the committee, Miss Georgie A. Bacon of Massachusetts, and her coworkers between 1902 and 1904. At the time of the Los Angeles Convention there were six state federations with committees on Civil Service Reform; at St. Louis there were reported standing committees in Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Vermont; while Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Oregon have given the work to their Educational Committees, Arizona and California to their Civic Committees, and Arkansas and Wyoming to their Legislative Committees. In Colorado and Pennsylvania subcommittees of the Legislative Committee had been appointed to carry on the work; Georgia had intrusted the subject to its Social Service Committee; Ohio had made it a part of the work of the Conference Committee of the State Federation and Collegiate Alumnae; and in several other states Civil Service Reform was being considered by clubs or committees independent of their state federations.

Of necessity the nature of the work was educational, and much stress was laid upon the introduction of the study of Civil Government and Civil Service Reform into the public schools. Among study clubs a syllabus, as well as many pamphlets and outlines for study, had been circulated; and the coöperation of clubwomen everywhere was enlisted in the battle for the establishment of the Merit System, wherever possible.

The work of the Traveling Library Committee deserved as much praise as any that had been accomplished by the General Federation at that time. It had

been far-reaching and highly beneficial. In thirty-four states belonging to the General Federation there were four thousand six hundred and fifty-five traveling libraries with three hundred and forty thousand nine hundred and fifty-one volumes. Fully one half of these libraries were of a miscellaneous character, while the remaining half were departmental and had for their subjects literature, history, biography, fiction, art, music and science. These libraries were sent to country neighborhoods, mining camps, ranches, granges and mountain districts. In view of the fact that only eleven years had elapsed since the first traveling library was sent out by Melvil Dewey of the University of New York, it is not difficult to estimate in some degree the service which the clubwomen had rendered in this branch of educational work. In eighteen states library commissions were secured largely, in most instances, through the influence of the clubwomen. Large appropriations had been secured and sums of money had been raised by the federations in several states. Women's clubs had established four hundred and seventy-four free public libraries, in some cases raising the funds and acting as librarians without outside assistance. The chairman of this committee, Mrs. Charles A. Perkins of Tennessee, was most zealous in her work; and her enthusiasm, as well as that of her coworkers, did much toward bringing about these excellent results.

The Civic Committee under the guidance of Mrs. E. P. Turner of Texas had been especially active during the entire period between conventions. The whole country had been divided into geographical groups in order that each member of the committee might give her undivided attention to the subject of Civics in those



states nearest to her own location. Circulars were sent out which immediately brought a large number of replies, showing the greatest interest in the subject and seeking advice and direction. The pent-up energy of the clubwomen found in the work of this committee a practical, useful vent, and the work which lay next to their own doors did not seem to them like a step into a foreign sphere. Everywhere there were signs of quickening: parks were laid out; garbage was removed and destroyed; trees were planted and streets were cleaned up; water supplies were inspected; playgrounds established; cemeteries beautified with bloom and bush; school children were given prizes for the best essays; and civic beauty and cleanliness took hold of the clubwomen throughout the entire Federation.

The first chairman of the Committee on Forestry and Irrigation, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford of Pennsylvania, appointed immediately after the Los Angeles Biennial, was forced, because of ill health, to resign from her position two months prior to the St. Louis Biennial, and Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams of Minnesota was appointed to fill out the term. The committee had taken firm hold upon the work and had immediately placed themselves in communication with the various state federations, inquiring what work had been done, what interest was stirring and what could be done for forestry in the immediate future in each case. These communications served to quicken and shape public opinion, and the report of the committee to the convention at St. Louis shows a very hopeful condition of mind among clubwomen everywhere. The Subcommittee on Irrigation presented a most interesting and inspiring report. This question had been of sufficient interest

at the time of the Los Angeles Convention to permit of the passage of a resolution in favor of the passage of the National Irrigation Law. The eastern delegates did not at all times grasp the full significance of the movement, but Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker voiced the sentiment of many others when she said, "In the arid Southwest irrigation is not politics; it is religion!" The women from the Southwest were tremendously in earnest, it was in very truth the religion of the arid lands — "the faith which saw in the desert the promise of springing grass blades." No one who listened to the eloquence of the chairman of this committee, as she presented to her audience the history, development and possibilities of the irrigation of the semiarid land, with the bearing which such reclamation would have upon the entire country, could fail to go back to her home club a convert to the cause.

The Household Economics Committee had found their task an easy and pleasant one. In one respect at least was this committee highly favored. Some women were interested in forestry, some in art, some in civil service reform, but all women were interested in household economics and its many branches. The committee found a field ready for the seed, nor was it an unworked field, for the National Household Economics Association had already been at work with the various state federations, and in all but seven there were already standing committees on Household Economics. The work of this committee was, then, rather a work of coördination in order that there might be coöperation. It was necessary that the workers in one state might know the work accomplished in others, as well as the facilities for study afforded them beyond their own limits. Housekeeping



was to become a science, and no woman was better fitted to assist in this work than the chairman of this first General Federation Committee on Household Economics, Mrs. Arthur Courtney Neville of Wisconsin.

The Committee on Reincorporation had completed its work, but in their path they had encountered a slight difficulty. A few members of the committee felt in doubt as to the legality, under the charter, of holding meetings and electing officers outside of the District of Columbia. In order that there should be no question, another bill was introduced in Congress, amending the charter in such a way as to permit of the Biennial meetings being held at any place which might be decided upon. Through the courtesy of Senator Fairbanks and Congressman Overstreet, the following act of Congress was secured :

An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act granting a charter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs," approved March third, nineteen hundred and one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act granting a charter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs," approved March third, nineteen hundred and three, be, and it is hereby, amended by adding thereto one section, to be designated as section four, which will read as follows :

Sec. 4. That said corporation be, and it is hereby, authorized to hold its biennial meetings at such places outside of Washington, in the District of Columbia, as it from time to time may deem best.

The Industrial Committee had prepared with great expenditure of time a condensed report of labor conditions in the various states of the country. Recommenda-

tions had been made, as early as May, 1903, to all clubs :

(1) That each club should have a standing committee on Industrial Conditions.

(2) That each club should devote at least one meeting a year to the consideration of some feature of industrial problems.

(3) That clubs having talks on current events should include events occurring in the industrial world, and at the end of the year have a summary given, so that members could have a knowledge of local conditions.

(4) That at annual meetings of state federations, space on programs should be accorded for addresses on some phases of present industrial conditions.

(5) That each standing industrial committee should prepare a schedule of laws relating to the employment of women and children in that state to send to the Industrial Committee of the General Federation; and that each state federation should agitate for enforcement of laws, and for amendments to laws, if they were not up to the standard of the Massachusetts labor laws.

(6) That the clubs should endeavor to promote the appointment of women as factory inspectors wherever women and children work in manufacture and commerce.

(7) That the clubs should agitate for juvenile courts and probation officers wherever these do not exist.

The chairman of this committee was Mrs. Frederick Nathan of New York.

In very close relation to the Industrial Committee was the Committee on Child Labor of which Miss Jane Addams of Illinois was chairman. One evening at the Biennial was given over to the presentation of the general subject, Child Labor in America, by Mr. Edgar Gardner Murphy of Alabama, followed by a most able report of the committee which set forth the schedule of



child labor, by night and by day, as prohibited by the laws of the different states. Much credit was given to clubwomen for the part which they had taken in the work for the children, and further action was urged. To this end a resolution and a standard child labor law was submitted to each club for consideration. The resolution was :

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs recommend to the state federation and federated clubs that :

In all states in which children work at night and children work who cannot read and write in the English language, the effort of the clubs should be concentrated upon the passage of laws covering these points, namely :

(1) That children under the age of sixteen years should not work between the hours of 7 P.M. and 7 A.M. and

(2) That children should not work who cannot read and write in the English language.

(3) In states in which these two points are already covered by effective laws, the adoption of the Standard Child Labor Law is recommended, including the News-boys' Law.

This resolution was submitted to the St. Louis Convention and unanimously adopted by the delegate body.

Prior to the Los Angeles Convention a committee had been appointed to make arrangements for a memorial and celebration during the great exposition which was to be held at St. Louis, Missouri, in commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase. This committee had submitted tentative plans for the consideration of the delegate body at Los Angeles, and the matter had been finally referred to the Board of Directors with full authority to act.

The amount of money was at all times the disturbing element and entered largely into the ultimate decision. At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors the chairman of the Louisiana Purchase Committee, Mrs. Philip N. Moore of St. Louis, was present, and it was determined at that time that a simple artistic tablet in commemoration of the Purchase should be presented to the city of St. Louis on behalf of the General Federation. An appropriation of one thousand dollars was made from the general treasury and a bronze tablet of beauty and significance was decided upon. The tablet was designed by Zolnay and now forms a permanent part of the exhibits at the Art Museum in St. Louis. The tablet shows the figure of a woman whose outstretched hand points toward the west, while in the foreground immigrants and prairie schooners file past her toward the land of the setting sun. In the background, outlined against the western sky, appear the towers and steeples of the cities of their vision. Beneath are the words of President Roosevelt, of which the design is the symbolic representation: "The acquisition of the territory is a credit to the broad and far-sighted statesmanship of the great men to whom it was immediately due." "It followed inevitably upon the great westward thrust at the settler folk, a thrust which was delivered blindly, but which no rival race could parry."

#### PRESENTATION CEREMONIES, LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION

A day, May 19, 1904, was set apart from the business of the convention for the unveiling and presentation of the tablet. Addresses of welcome were given by Hon.



David R. Francis, President Louisiana Purchase Exposition; Professor Halsey C. Ives, Chief of the Fine Arts Department; and Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill of Iowa, on behalf of the Louisiana Purchase states. The presentation was by the President of the General Federation, Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison, and the reply of acceptance was by Professor Ives. The welcoming addresses were most appropriate, and Mrs. Denison's presentation speech was gracious and pleasing in the extreme. At no time during the convention did the President appear to greater advantage than upon this memorial day. Always graceful and gracious, the very embodiment of womanhood, winning admiration by her very presence, this charming woman was at her best as she spoke in the behalf of the Federation at the unveiling of the tablet. Her presentation address is given below:

"In behalf of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, I have the honor to present to the city of St. Louis the bronze tablet here represented, which symbolizes a trinity of sentiment.

"It is in memory of an event, the influence of which is inestimable and imperishable. It is an enduring remembrance of the hospitality so freely extended to this great body of women by the city of St. Louis; and it is a message from the world of art, whose expression is the most ennobling influence of civilization. From the days when primitive man outlined his rude sketches upon cavern walls, art has carried the race upward; and the test of a city's culture, like that of the individual, is in its assimilation of the ideal and soul of the sculptor and painting.

"In placing this tablet upon the walls which bound the art treasures of your city, the General Federation links the past with the present and future.

"Your city has risen by the majestic river whose bosom upbears the burden of commerce.

"So may your temples of art arise; and may the current of humanity sweeping past bear on its breast increasing treasures of beauty, whose message shall be not of the material, but the spiritual, treasures touched by a sacred fire that shall inspire and exalt a great people; and of this the women of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, in a spirit of patriotism, friendship, and abiding fidelity to a lofty purpose, by this gift would forever be a part."

The business of the convention moved smoothly and swiftly. Perhaps there had never been a Biennial when more attention was paid to the formal detail of procedure than at St. Louis. The first two days were opening days, and addresses of welcome, greetings from fraternal delegates, reports of officers and committees and letters from the foreign clubs, consumed practically the entire time.

On the day before the formal opening there had been the usual meeting of the Council as provided in the by-laws. Throughout the entire week conferences were held at which full and free discussion was invited upon the subjects under consideration.

There were three industrial sessions: one, an evening under the Child Labor Committee with the Conditions in America for the subject; another, under the Industrial Committee, presented the problem of the working women with various phases of the subject dealt with by speakers of note; the third was given by officers of the Consumers' League and the director of the New York charity organization. The last session was of the greatest interest to all present, for it placed before the fortunate, happy women of the convention a clear picture



of the conditions which surrounded their less fortunate sisters. The statements made upon the platform were new and startling to many who had not as yet given the matter any considerable thought. That there were three million wage-earning women in the United States, spinning, weaving, sewing, earning an average wage of not more than five dollars and a half per week, working from ten to eleven hours per day, was a revelation to many. That the indirect consumer, the clubwoman, was in any way responsible for the conditions under which these women worked and lived was a phase of the ready-made and ready-to-wear and ready-to-serve problem which was unknown to many of the delegates; and it is safe to record that, for a time at least, the quickened conscience made the average woman in that audience a more intelligent purchaser.

The Household Economics Committee furnished a helpful session taking as topics the subjects of Household Trades, the Ethics of Home-making, and the School as the Ally of the Home. These were presented by most able students of the Household Economics problem and followed by animated discussion.

The Committee on Reciprocity, of which Mrs. Philip N. Moore of Missouri was chairman, presented the first tangible report of work actually accomplished by the various state federations. A tabulated statement was published in pamphlet form and widely distributed. This pamphlet was of great value and clearly set forth, by states, the work which state reciprocity committees had done, with lists of papers collected and much other valuable data. In this admirable report the need of a central bureau, a general information bureau in which should be placed data of all kinds subject to the demands

of the clubwomen everywhere, was emphasized. It was urged that in this way the General Federation would have a somewhat permanent abiding place where might be collected, under registration, whatever of value had passed through the hands of officers, committees or clubwomen and been found helpful to clubs.

The *Club Woman*, the official organ of the General Federation, having changed editors, asked and obtained the indorsement of the convention for the new publication under the editorship of Mrs. Doré Lyon of New York.

In the business sections the by-laws underwent some changes. Especially in Article II, touching admission of organizations to membership in the General Federation, amendments were made in Sections 1, 4, and 5 as given below :

Section 1. Every organization desiring to join the General Federation shall make application through its president to the President of the General Federation. The application must show that no sectarian or political test is required for membership ; that the organization will have been in existence at least one year at the time of the next Biennial ; that it is not a secret society ; that no one of its members is affiliated with any organization which tolerates, either by practice or teaching, violation of national or state laws and that it agrees to the constitution and by-laws of the General Federation.

The application must be accompanied by the constitution and by-laws of the organization applying for membership and must also state whether the organization has at any time been a member of the General Federation.

Section 4. The committee shall admit no organization whose application is not filed with the President



of the General Federation at least ninety days preceding the first day of the Biennial meeting.

Section 5. Any organization which has withdrawn from the General Federation or whose membership has lapsed on account of non-payment of dues may be reinstated within two years by the payment of all dues to the time of readmission. If two years have elapsed since withdrawal or lapse of membership, the organization may only be admitted by making application in regular form.

Certain changes affecting the amount of dues were also made so that Article III, Section 6, was made to read as follows :

Section 6. The annual dues of clubs of fewer than twenty-five members shall be \$2.50.

Clubs numbering twenty-five members or more shall be at the rate of ten cents per capita.

The dues of any organization elected to membership after the first day of January shall be credited as the dues for the year beginning the first of May next following.

The annual dues for state federations shall be at the rate of twenty-five cents per club.

The annual dues for each local federation of clubs shall be at the rate of one dollar per club.

Dues shall be paid annually the first of May, beginning with 1900.

The action taken at the Fourth Biennial by which any president serving four consecutive years was made Honorary President of the General Federation was rescinded.

The committee conferred upon Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin and upon Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison the title of Honorary President of the General Federation.

## INTEREST IN CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

The Committee on Legislation was composed of representatives of the Committees on Industrial Problems, Household Economics, Libraries, Civics and Forestry. The report was very comprehensive, showing legislation for better library facilities under way in thirty-four states, some kind of legislation in fifteen states bearing upon juvenile courts and probation laws, good child labor laws in four states; some interest in forestry legislation in several states, some interest in pure food, and a growing interest in legislation which should tend toward uniformity of divorce laws. In closing the report of the Legislative Committee an appeal was made in favor of better legislation upon marriage and divorce and the following resolution was presented:

*Whereas*, We recognize in the permanence and sacredness of the marriage relation, a principle great in its significance;

*Resolved*, That each federation inform itself on its state laws governing marriage and divorce, and that concerted and systematic effort be made to secure strict and uniform laws governing these important subjects;

*Resolved*, That we extend our thanks to the United States Senate for the investigation into an organization which controls its adherents morally, politically and commercially;

*Resolved*, That in view of the systematic effort of the Mormon hierarchy to undermine Christian standards of marriage and to dominate state and national legislation, each state federation urge upon its senators to take such legislative action as will prevent the recognition of a power which undermines moral standards and will prevent the continuance of practices which are contrary to the principles of the American people.



Among the resolutions passed at the St. Louis Biennial were the following :

(1) *Whereas*, It is the conviction of many people interested in the right development of children that, although thousands of noble and conscientious teachers in the United States are voluntarily doing a great work in character building, the schools do not yet provide sufficiently for the moral education of the young ;

*Resolved*, That this conference recommends the matter of more definite and more intelligent ethical instruction by the educational section of the General Federation for the next two years, with the suggestion that the results of the methods in use in the schools of France be carefully investigated.

(2) *Whereas*, There is at present no uniform standard of required school attendance in the states represented in the General Federation ; be it

*Resolved*, That the conference recommends to the Federation that the provisions of the compulsory education laws of Colorado and New York be brought to the attention of the clubs and federations with commendation as embodying the provisions required for effective protection of the child's right to education and the Republic's need that its children should be educated.

(3) *Whereas*, Equal educational advantages will not be obtained throughout all parts of our country until they are demanded by the public sentiment of every community, and where to produce such public sentiment requires the combined efforts of all women's organizations ;

*Resolved*, That the Educational Committee of this Federation be empowered to hold a meeting before the next Biennial at such time and place as the chairman shall decide upon, to which she shall invite a representative of each of the other organizations of women that they may discuss the best methods of so uniting their efforts as to secure this end.

(4) *Whereas*, There is to be published a complete and comprehensive record of the progress of agriculture in all its manifold development as illustrated by the exhibits in agriculture and horticulture at the fair, including the exhibits of the manufacturérers of food and drink products ; and

*Whereas*, There is nothing that concerns the women of this country more than the purity of the food supplied to its people and no question of greater importance to the home than to stop the traffic in adulterated foods and drinks ; and

*Whereas*, The food commissioners have an exhibit in the Agricultural Building illustrating the danger in the use of many chemically preserved foods and fraudulently manufactured foods, which exhibit should be made a part of this record ; and

*Whereas*, We believe that this record should also devote considerable space to household economics ; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we in convention assembled do hereby request that the work of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in elevating household economics and in influencing pure food legislation be recognized in this record.

*We further resolve*, That we, as a federation of women's clubs, pledge ourselves to do all we can to secure national and state legislation that will stop the fraudulent manufacture of food products.

(5) Believing that the stability and permanence of the educational, philanthropic and social work to which Federation and clubs are pledged cannot be assured except upon the basis of the faithful observance of Civil Service laws embodying the merit system. Therefore, I move that the delegates here assembled recommend to the General Federation of Women's Clubs that it consider the work of Civil Service Reform as one of the main issues during the next year.

(6) Recommendations of the Reciprocity Committee that each state chairman have such papers typewritten



as her state committee considers helpful in humor, research or statistics, and such selection of the fittest be sent to each member of the general committee in her group of states; this should include excellent appointments of committees from the state, women of tact and judgment, that all may understand and none be offended.

Second Recommendation: That copies should be placed in the reciprocity bureau of papers from the biennial department meetings. From the very fact that these reports are not printed and distributed arise requests from all over the country for them.

(7) *Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs regrets the threatened destruction of the "Mammoth Grove" of the Calaveras Big Trees and urges the necessary legislation to their protection and preservation.

(8) *Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs indorse the bill of the cliff dwellings, now pending in Congress, for the preservation of the historical cliff dwellings and the reservation of the land for a national park.

(9) *Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs approves the creation of a National Bureau to obtain and record information concerning the condition of dependent, neglected and abused or viciously reared children and of neglected and abused dumb animals throughout the United States and its possessions; to study the cause of abuse in such cases and record the conclusions reached; to suggest and urge remedies in all such cases; to promote uniform and efficient legislation in the states, territories and island possessions of the United States for the protection of children and dumb animals; to secure the enforcement of law for the protection of children and dumb animals; to urge humane education of children in the public schools; to educate public sentiment concerning the rights and proper treatment of children and dumb animals; to encourage and aid the creation of state and territorial boards for their protection; and to do whatever else

will best carry out the purpose of creating this board; and indorses the objects and purposes of the H. R. 3575 to these ends.

(10) *Resolved*, That we recommend to the General Federation of Women's Clubs that it recommend to the individual clubs that they devote the first meeting of the year 1905 to the subject of Civil Service Reform.

(11) *Whereas*, The Biennial of federated women's clubs, in session at St. Louis, this twenty-fourth day of May, 1904, recognizes that government aid for irrigation, as secured by the National Irrigation Act of 1903, and the reclamation of our sixteen semiarid states and territories, means material, political and humanitarian development and betterment of America; and

*Whereas*, Irrigation more than any one other factor proves the wisdom of the Louisiana Purchase made by our Government; and

*Whereas*, President Francis of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition under date of August 11, 1903, wrote the officers of the Eleventh National Irrigation Congress that the Committee on Ceremonials of said Exposition "will be pleased, if it is desired, to set apart a day to be known as Irrigation Day, and to prepare a special program which shall direct the attention of all visitors to this subject"; and

*Whereas*, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has indorsed national irrigation and the National Irrigation Act, be it hereby

*Resolved*, That this Federation petition President Francis and the Committee on Ceremonials of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to set apart a day in October to be known as Irrigation Day, and that a special program be prepared for this day; that the President of the United States, who fostered the National Irrigation Act, be invited to be present on that day, as also members of the cabinet and government experts in irrigation, as also governors, senators, and congressmen and prominent men and women of the sixteen semiarid states and territories, that the benefi-



cent act and science of land reclamation may be fittingly commemorated at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the incoming president of this Federation be empowered to appoint a committee of three to present the above resolutions to the officials of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

(12) *Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs place itself on record as approving the new treaty now under consideration between the United States and China, which treaty will remove such obstacles as now exist to the entry of Chinese travelers, merchants and students into the United States. Such restrictions are not in force between the United States and any other friendly power, and are contrary to the spirit of American institutions.

The Nominating Committee submitted as its report to the convention the following ticket, which was elected by the convention :

President, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker of Colorado.

First Vice President, Mrs. Philip N. Moore of Missouri.

Second Vice President, Mrs. May Alden Ward of Massachusetts.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman of Illinois.

Corresponding Secretary, Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim of South Carolina.

Treasurer, Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker of Texas.

Auditor, Dr. Sarah L. Kendall of Washington.

Directors :

Mrs. Charles A. Perkins of Tennessee.

Mrs. Lydia P. Williams of Minnesota.

Mrs. Belle M. Stoutenborough of Nebraska.

Mrs. Charles Yardley of New Jersey.

Mrs. Josiah E. Cowles of California.

Mrs. William P. Orr of Ohio.

Mrs. Mary I. Wood of New Hampshire.

Mrs. Edward L. Johnson of Rhode Island.

There were many interesting features of the convention which should not be overlooked. The features of entertainment deserve a volume by themselves. The courtesy of the St. Louis clubwomen had never been surpassed. Each committee woman did her share to meet the comforts and necessities of the visiting ladies. The program was rich and instructive with expert presentation of each subject. The conferences had brought the delegates near to each other and near to the subjects of interest, and officers, committee members and delegates had the knowledge that all was well.

Mrs. Denison, who had served the General Federation one term as President, although she had served as acting president for many months during the régime of her predecessor, might easily have been elected since Mrs. Decker had refused to be considered as a candidate until Mrs. Denison had declared her unequivocal position. Mrs. Denison had proven herself an excellent presiding officer, a woman of literary attainments with an unusual command of pure English, a woman of fine ideals and wonderful grace of manner.

The Seventh Biennial adjourned, and the great body of women, who had come from all parts of the country to consider together the great interests of humanity, separated and went back to their several homes, secure in the knowledge that during the St. Louis Biennial they had been in touch with the vanguard of civilization.



## THE EIGHTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### MRS. DECKER'S FIRST MESSAGE

THE election of Mrs. Decker to be the President of the General Federation was of the utmost value to the organization. Perhaps the actual condition of affairs at the time of her election can best be interpreted by the words of her first message :

“The General Federation of Women’s Clubs has had several stages of development during its brief life of fifteen years. First, the birth throes, which were to a certain extent painful and prolonged, because at the time of its origin the only large national organizations of women were of a reform or sectarian religious character. For this reason, an organization with simply the platform of self-development and mutual improvement, or, as the new charter reads, ‘A body corporate and politic for educational, industrial, philanthropic, literary, artistic and scientific culture, and to bring into communication with one another the various women’s clubs throughout the world,’ was absolutely a new thing under the sun. An organization which by its very nature would reach not only the courageous, progressive women, the fearless leaders, but would also draw to its ranks the conservative, timid, home woman, would develop in her a desire and a mind to discover herself, and by so doing, lead her gradually into far fields of investigation and progress, in lines hitherto unthought and undreamed of in her quiet routine — such an organization was necessarily viewed with suspicion and



MRS. SARAH S. PLATT DECKER





sometimes treated with ridicule. But the Federation was born, and in spite of distrust, in spite of sarcasm, in spite of misgivings, its fifteen years of life have demonstrated that it was well born — a thoroughbred.

“The second period of the Federation was that of organization with the beginning of state federations, the multiplying of individual clubs, the association of local and city organizations and all the adaptation and adjustment which this great work required.

“The third period was what would be called by a mother of a family the ‘teething age’—the years when infantile diseases were prevalent, when the child was growing in body, and the even balance must be made with heart and mind. After these trying years, the next stage was the readjustment which comes to the individual system because of any strain of nerve or body. Each of the eminent women who have served the organization as President has faced a particular condition and problem, and to-day we can but congratulate the Federation that the respective leaders have so faithfully and grandly met these oftentimes perplexing, yet always inevitable, circumstances in the history of organized bodies.

“Two years ago, when the present Board was inducted into office, the usual time was given to routine business, to appointment of committees, and to taking what might be called in mercantile phrase, ‘account of stock.’ After that came the most careful analysis and study of all the conditions of the Federation. The conclusion was reached by your President, in which she was supported by many of the Board members, that the next step in the development of the General Federation should be the centralization, the perfection or consummation of the organization, with all that that implies.”

To accomplish this end Mrs. Decker was [the ideal woman. Ever since the clubwomen first came to know her as the president of the Denver Woman's Club at the time of the Fourth Biennial she had been recognized



as the natural leader of their forces. But never before had the delegates been able to persuade her to become their candidate. Born in the East, but having passed many years of her mature life in the West, she had become cosmopolitan in her experiences. By nature generous and impulsive, by experience conversant with affairs of public import, she was a woman whose broad sympathetic vision was needed at a time when there was danger lest the state federations, grown strong in themselves, should lose sight of the fact that, in order to become a national force, there must be coöperation and union of action between them.

Perhaps the greatest gift which the new President possessed was the power, so rare in great minds, of recognizing and calling out the best in others. Each woman in the Federation, whether from a small rural club in a hillside town of New England, whose vision was bounded by the limits of the home farm, or from the great departmental club of the largest town, in Mrs. Decker's presence felt that she was a vital part of a great work and, laying aside either timidity or assurance, lent her best effort to perfect the whole. No one who has seen this woman upon the platform and noticed the ease with which she played with her convention, now relieving the tedium of a business session with a bright and witty story, now slightly overstepping the strict parliamentary ruling that permits no presiding officer an expression of feeling, in order to point a moral or touch the heartstrings with a bit of personal experience, — no one who has sat in sympathy with her every mood could fail to feel her wondrous power.

In such a President it was inevitable that there should be a certain fine disregard for matters of detail, —

a long prospective view that overlooked some of the necessary steps between. But "to those who have shall be given" and it was decreed that this administration should have as First Vice President a woman who supplied all these qualities which might otherwise have been missing, a woman whose nature and training made her a master of detail, a woman to whom no item of interest was too small to escape her notice, a woman whose federation experience has encompassed every phase of club life from committee member, through the steps of State Federation President, General Federation Secretary, General Federation Treasurer, to the office of First Vice President. It is impossible to consider the success of Mrs. Decker's administration without taking into account, in addition to the wonderful qualifications which she herself brought forward, the need of the times and the admirable assistance rendered by her First Vice President.

Starting with a realization that heretofore the General Federation had been a federation of biennials, and fortified immediately with a Board of Directors who were, almost without exception, in perfect harmony with the hopes and aspirations of the President, the work of the new administration was an effort to concentrate and weld together the forces already in existence, to make the General Federation with its Board and committees the center from which should radiate information and influence which should reach to the smallest and most remote club.

To this end, early in the administration, letters were sent to each state president and published in all the club journals, urging that all federations and individual clubs should organize their committees in harmony with



those of the General Federation. In this way there might be an unbroken chain reaching from the fountain head to the smallest tributary.

The suggestion was acted upon in many states and in individual clubs, and the result was a great quickening of interest and loyalty. The General Federation President was present at twenty-six state federation conventions during her first term of office, and in her wake was everywhere the inevitable renewal of enthusiasm and fealty.

An Executive Committee, consisting of the President and both Vice Presidents, was appointed at the first meeting of the new Board; but Mrs. Decker at once felt that in the conduct of affairs it was advisable to have, so far as possible, the advice and attention of her entire Board. To this end letters were sent out by her at frequent intervals to all members of her Board, in which matters of importance were set forth and free expression of opinion invited. A few words taken from the first Board letter will serve to show the footing upon which at once all matters were established:

“I desire also to establish in the beginning a feeling of mutual confidence and friendship which cannot be overthrown by any differences of opinion. Believe me, I shall never be in the least disturbed by opposition and discussion, or by absolute disapproval of my plans on your part. Please do not hesitate at any time to give me your opinion with the utmost frankness; beginning in this way we shall accomplish much more for our organization.”

#### THE BUREAU OF INFORMATION ESTABLISHED

A second and very important step was taken early in the first years of Mrs. Decker's régime. The criticism

most often made of both club and federation work was of a lack of system. The complaint was made that a chasm existed between the individual club and the state federation on the one hand and the General Federation on the other. Biennials were indisputably of value, but the distances involved were so great that it required women of sufficient wealth to meet the necessary expense of attending them. A further criticism was made that it was practically impossible for an average club member to even remember, much less to keep in touch with, the various officers and committee members of the General Federation; and it was agreed that a Bureau of Information, to which all questions might be addressed and from which might be obtained study outlines, information upon all branches of club work, and assistance in the preparation of addresses, programs and essays, would be of inestimable value.

A plan was submitted to the Board of Directors which so far seemed to meet the necessary requirements that it was decided to make a trial for the remaining months preceding the Eighth Biennial, and a member of the Board, Mrs. Mary I. Wood of New Hampshire, was instructed to take the matter up with the presidents and other leading members of each state federation, as well as with prominent club workers everywhere, to ascertain the feeling upon the matter throughout the country. The idea met with a great deal of enthusiasm, and almost without exception the replies indicated that the establishment of a General Federation Bureau of Information would fill a long-felt want. Accordingly, although in a very small way, the Bureau of Information started upon a trial existence. The plan in execution exceeded even the prediction of the most sanguine,



and letters came in rapid succession asking for help along every conceivable interest of humanity. In each case the Manager of the Bureau strove to make the reply suited to the need, location and condition of the applicant. Other national organizations, magazine editors, book publishers and authorities of all kinds gladly lent their aid, and the Bureau, with these valuable allies, rarely needed to turn away an applicant. Through the medium of the Bureau, clubwomen were put in close touch with the expert women who served as chairmen of the General Federation committees. It was soon found that not only clubwomen, but the public at large, found it easier to remember one than a score of addresses and the correspondence which had hitherto been directed toward the President and Secretary soon became somewhat deflected toward the Bureau.

As time went on and the St. Paul convention authorized the continuance of the Bureau, more and more was the office made of use: yearbooks were collected; study outlines distributed; a loan collection of books accumulated; magazine articles and book references supplied; press clippings classified; data collected for the directory, a work which had hitherto been a part of the annual work of the Corresponding Secretary; the directory published and distributed; in short, the Bureau became a clearing house for the needs and activities of the General Federation. The possibilities of the Bureau are limitless, but, owing to the fact that the appropriation must for some years be somewhat meager, the aggressive work which might and should be done by this office is somewhat neglected. Even under this handicap, however, the testimony of thousands of

clubwomen each year proves the wisdom of this department, which stands as a monument to the administration of Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker.

The centralizing process, determined upon by the President and her Board, was further advanced by the appointment of each member of the Board of Directors to be the correspondent and adviser of a standing committee. This served to bring the interests of each committee directly before the Board and kept them informed of the material of which each committee was composed and the work which it had under consideration.

For several years the practice of holding a Council meeting midway between the Biennials had been discontinued. This custom was revived, and a very helpful and enthusiastic Council was held at Atlantic City in June, 1905. This Council was of an informal nature and brought those in attendance closely together and gave an opportunity for conference and discussion which the busy sessions of the Biennial could but poorly provide.

The chairmen of the standing committees appointed for 1904-1906 were :

Art Committee, Mrs. John B. Sherwood.

Civic Committee, Miss Kate C. McKnight.

Civil Service Reform Committee, Miss Georgie Bacon.

Civil Service Advisory Committee, Miss Perkins.

Educational Committee, Miss Mary M. Abbott.

Advisory Committee on Education, Miss Laura D. Gill.

Forestry Committee, Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams.

Household Economics Committee, Mrs. Mary Pugh.

Pure Food Committee, Mrs. Walter McNab Miller.

Industrial Committee, Mrs. Rheta C. Dorr.



Advisory Committee for the Industrial Committee,  
Miss Jane Addams.

Child Labor Committee, Mrs. A. O. Granger.

Legislative Committee, Mrs. Samuel Forter.

Library Extension Committee, Mrs. Charles S.  
Morris.

Literature Committee, Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison.

Membership Committee, Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker.

Reciprocity Committee, Mrs. Mary I. Wood.

#### EIGHTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — ST. PAUL

The Eighth Biennial was held in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 30 to June 7, 1906, the meetings being held in the great Armory with its seating capacity for six thousand people. Upon the immense stage sat the officers, committee members and guests of honor, while the great auditorium was filled to the very doors and upon occasions large numbers were turned away. Business meetings were held from 9.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. with evening sessions at 8 P.M. Conferences of the state committees and of the Bureau of Information were held during the afternoons, and the large attendance at these meetings amply demonstrated that the delegates and visiting clubwomen were eager to carry home with them every possible help and suggestion which could be obtained. During the week receptions were given to the delegates, and some of St. Paul's most beautiful homes were thrown open to the visiting clubwomen. Governor and Mrs. John A. Johnson tendered a reception at the new Capitol building on the evening of June 2. Tuesday, June 5, was Minneapolis Day, and the members of the convention were taken on an excursion to the beautiful Minnehaha Falls.

The formal opening of the convention was attended by the governor of the state, the mayor of the city, the president of the Commercial Club of St. Paul, the president of the Minnesota State Federation, and the president of the Fourth District of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs. Response was made by Mrs. Decker, who was followed by other speakers. There were the usual greetings from honorary members and fraternal delegates, reports of officers and the President's message upon the second day. Among the greetings was that of Mrs. Constance Faunt LeRoy Runcie, who had been made an Honorary Vice President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs since the last Biennial.

At this session the report of the Foreign Correspondent presented the following new honorary members: Fräulein Anna Simons, Associate, Royal College of Art, South Kensington, and Royal Kunstgewerbe Schule, Düsseldorf, Germany; Mrs. E. E. C. Jones, Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, England; Mlle. Dick May, Directrice de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Sociales, Paris, France; Miss Constance Smedley, Founder Lyceum Club Bureau, London; Signora Fanny Zampini Salazar, Lecturer upon Italian Poets and Novelists and Modern Italy, Rome, Italy; Miss Alice Ravenhill, Member Board of Education, London; Miss Agnes C. Maitland, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, England.

#### RECAPITULATION OF THE AIMS OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION

The President's message was a résumé of the work of the past two years and closed with the following re-



capitulation and excellent description of the aims of the General Federation :

Recommendation No. 1. Continue the Bureau of Information for the coming biennial period.

Recommendation No. 2. Make the Federation Secretary the medium of communication with the Bureau from state and clubs.

Recommendation No. 3. Continue the Council meetings between Biennials.

Recommendation No. 4. Standing committees shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Recommendation No. 5. The Industrial Committee and Child Labor Subcommittee shall be combined, to be called the Industrial Committee.

Recommendation No. 6. A new committee, to be called "Outlook Committee," shall be created.

In the final estimate, if we define this organization, if we reply to the oft-repeated question, What is the purpose of the Federation? we should answer: The General Federation of Women's Clubs is not a reform organization *per se*. It is broadly sympathetic with reform, but it is not a propaganda. It is not philanthropic distinctively, though one of the greatest agencies of the day for careful study of methods, and genuine helpfulness in this direction. It is not purely sociological, though with living interests and a splendid record of service in uplifting work. It is in no sense political, yet its influence and power are to be seen in every state legislature, and it has the proud boast of having been a great factor in passing a long-disputed federal measure during the present session of Congress. It cannot be called an academy or museum of art, yet one of the greatest authorities of the age has said that the years of study and demonstration in the clubs and federations have produced the wonderful results shown in the school-room decorations and much of the arts and crafts movement, by which a genuine love for a knowledge of art is being instilled into the coming men and women. It is

not a university, yet a surprising stimulus has been given to the study of literature, science and history, in hundreds and hundreds of American homes, because of the club membership of mothers or daughters. It has no bureau of publicity, yet through its membership of clubs and federations it has been more far-reaching in disseminating knowledge and arousing public sentiment upon the questions which make for good citizenship than any other body of workers — because of its broad, inclusive lines and wider outlook.

The Federation is typical of America itself, it has been absorbed in "getting together." So great and engrossing has been this operation that in places the building is weak, lacking the strength and stability of slow, painstaking processes. The Federation may become a mighty factor in the civilization of the century, if wielded as a whole — an army of builders, ready, alert, systematic and scientific, not only a potent force in this generation, but transmitting to the next a vigor and strength which has never been given by any race of women to their inheritors.

There was an evening with state presidents' reports, and each president in a five-minutes address told of the most significant feature of the work accomplished by her federation during the biennial period just passed.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The reports of standing committees showed great activity. The chairman of the Committee on Art, Mrs. John B. Sherwood, reported that she had received during the year just preceding the St. Paul Biennial an average of twenty letters per day. Many of these letters contained requests for study outlines on art. This demand was met by the publication of a little



booklet for free distribution. In this pamphlet were study outlines upon Household Arts, Arts and Crafts, Italian, Flemish and Dutch Art, accompanied in each case with an excellent bibliography. Another matter to which this committee had lent its support and sanction was the endeavor to remove the tariff from works of art, an effort which had its concrete expression in the bill at that time before Congress.

Perhaps the most significant work of this committee was the traveling gallery of original paintings. This had a hitherto unheard-of success. The pictures were loaned by the artists. They were sent free, securely packed, to every club that desired them, the only expense to the club being the mere cost of expressage. The only stipulation which accompanied their loan was that wherever the gallery was exhibited, free access was to be given to the school children and the public. The value of this traveling art gallery cannot be overestimated. It had been possible for clubs to study art by means of textbooks, but the opportunity to study original pictures had, hitherto, been denied to many of the clubs which were located somewhat apart from art centers. The first gallery was received with so much enthusiasm and appreciation that the succeeding Committee on Art placed in circulation three galleries of a similar nature. By means of these galleries thousands of people, who had never before seen an original painting, were enabled to see and to study the work of excellent artists. The report given by Mrs. Sherwood was in keeping with the spirit of the Biennial; it was not a mere stirring of the surface, it touched the soul and brought home the spirit of art, rather than its mere expression, to every listener in her audience. The art session at the Biennial pre-

sented Mrs. Bertha Kunz Baker, who spoke upon Art as a Social Dynamic.

The session devoted to Child Labor was one of the strong features of the Biennial. Prefaced by a report of the chairman, Mrs. A. O. Granger of Georgia, in which the advance which had been made in the work of lessening child labor was chronicled, Mr. Owen R. Lovejoy, Assistant Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, made an exhaustive résumé of the conditions in the United States. Some parts of this address were strongly invective against the vaunted success of the economic development, which, although transferring from human shoulders to those of iron and steel many of the burdens of labor, nevertheless made an ever increasing demand for the labor of little children. He called upon the clubwomen of America to help in the all-important work of enlightening public opinion. He expressed his absolute confidence in the right-heartedness and the right-headedness of the American people when once the facts were brought to their attention through these publicity agencies.

The Committee on Civil Service Reform, through the chairman, Miss Georgie A. Bacon of Massachusetts, reported a great increase of interest for their cause throughout the states; standing committees were reported in twenty-two states, while in nine others Civil Service Reform formed a part of the work of committees under other titles. While the work had been of necessity educational in nature, it had also many concrete examples of actual accomplishments; investigations had been conducted among state institutions; legislation for the merit system had been urged; prize essays in public schools had been encouraged, and the work for



Civil Service Reform had become a recognized part of the General Federation policy. The following resolution offered by the committee was adopted :

Believing that training, practical knowledge and ability are necessary in the case of dependents, defectives and delinquents, and realizing that the management of state institutions for these unfortunate classes should be in accordance with the most advanced ideas of economy and efficiency ;

*Be it resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs devote itself the next two years to securing the enactment of state laws which shall place all officials and employees of the charitable and reformatory institutions of the United States under the merit system of appointment ;

*Be it resolved*, That public-spirited men and women be urged to use their influence to this end.

At the head of the Civic Committee was Miss Kate C. McKnight of Pennsylvania, a woman whose word and work had long been recognized as that of a valiant civic warrior. The possibilities of the General Federation committee at once aroused her best endeavors, and, while allowing the broadest interpretation of the word "Civics" so that every phase of welfare work was included, the result was a great quickening of interest everywhere. Early in the life of this committee a handbook, called "The Civic Primer," was issued and at once became invaluable to club workers. This little primer contained chapters upon village improvement, forestry, school improvement, children's leagues, child labor and other equally pertinent subjects. It is of value to note the number and variety of interests urged forward by this committee ; planting of trees, acquisition of parks, disposal of garbage, establishment of

school gardens, the city beautiful, municipal sanitation, juvenile courts, — these and many other subjects were placed before the clubwomen of the country in such a way that it became plain to them that there was a field at hand for women's activity, a field where the interests of every citizen, male and female, were at stake. At the civic session of the Eighth Biennial Dr. Justus Ohage, Commissioner of Health of St. Paul, delivered a masterly address upon Municipal Sanitation and Civic Improvement.

The Committee on Education, with Miss Mary M. Abbott of Connecticut as chairman, had much to report. The first meeting of this committee since the St. Louis Biennial had been held at Portland, Maine, July 10-13, 1905, at the time of the convention of the American Institute of Instruction. The committee had been invited to coöperate with the Institute and to provide two sessions of a department of the Institute known as the Home and School Department. The topics for discussion at these two sessions were, "Ought the course of study in our women's colleges to be made more practical?" and "How can home and school best coöperate in the ethical training of children?" At the first session the papers were written by the presidents of the two great societies most interested in the subject, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and Mrs. Philip N. Moore, of the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ. The discussion which followed was participated in by college graduates, professional educators and clubwomen. The second session was divided between clubwomen, Mrs. Ellen H. Richards of Boston and Mrs. W. O. Vallette of Indiana, and educators, State Superintendent Small of Rhode



Island and Mr. Wilson L. Gill of Pennsylvania. At this convention every member but one of the General Federation Committee on Education was present and committee meetings were held at every available opportunity. Three lines of work were decided upon :

(1) To urge the Education Committee of each state federation to impress upon the clubwomen of their state the great need of interesting their communities, and especially their congressmen, in a compulsory school law for the District of Columbia, as, unless urged by their constituents at home, these legislators would give their time to other matters in which their constituents were expressing greater interest.

(2) Not to advise the clubwomen of the country to urge the introduction of any particular system for the teaching of civics or of ethics in the public schools, but to ask them to find out what their schools are already doing in those lines and to compare their methods with the School City as introduced in the schools of Philadelphia by Wilson L. Gill; the methods of self-government used by John T. Ray in the John Crerar School of Chicago; the system of individual instruction in use at Batavia, New York; the course of study in ethics introduced by the Board of Education in New York in 1903; Principal A. D. Call's outline for a practical course in ethics; Superintendent Soldan's discussion of the subject of moral training in the Report of the Board of Education of St. Louis, 1896-1897, and the "Conversational Lessons on Conduct" prepared for his schools.

(3) As an incentive to this comparative study, to circulate some of the statements made by prominent educators on the subjects of ethical training in our schools, as given in Mr. Call's report at Portland.

At the same convention was held the first conference in regard to the affiliation of educational work of all the

national societies of women especially interested in public schools. There were represented the Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Collegiate Alumnæ, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Congress of Mothers and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Each representative agreed to present the matter to the national organization which she represented, and the General Federation Committee was requested to outline the aim and general principles as set forth by the conference. This was done as follows :

*Aim:* *Whereas*, education in the United States is not a national, but a state, affair and there is such diversity in the educational methods of the various states that the education a child receives depends altogether too much upon where he lives, it shall be our aim to bring about such an equalization of educational advantages that any child in any nook or corner of the nation may receive as good an education as any child in the most favorable locality now receives.

*General Principles :* (1) All the children of the United States must be educated ; therefore, in every state good compulsory school laws are necessary. (2) Good schools must be provided for the children to attend ; therefore, in every state some provision is necessary whereby every school district not only may, but must, have a well-built, well-equipped, well-cared-for building in which to carry on school work. (3) Teachers must be properly prepared for their work ; therefore, in every state there must be normal schools of definite standard, minimum professional requirements without which no one may be permitted to teach, and a minimum salary, for less than which no one will be asked to teach. (4) Schools should be under regular expert supervision in order to accomplish their best work ; therefore, in every state there should be provision for training superin-



tendents and for placing all schools under their care. (5) School work, to be satisfactory, should produce three results in the pupils, knowledge, efficiency, character; therefore, in every state there should be effort to introduce into all schools training for the hand, as well as for the head; definite instruction in moral principles, as well as in language and mathematics.

These were the plans as set forth by the committee. The actual work accomplished had been the work for compulsory school laws of the District of Columbia. In coöperation with the Public Education Association of Washington the matter had been laid before the chairman of the Education Committee in each state and a combined effort succeeded in the passage of the bill, May 28, 1906. The following extract from a Washington paper shows clearly the recognized part which the Federation had in the matter :

“This is fast becoming a government of the women, for the women’s views, and by the women’s clubs,” declared a Senator, after going through his daily grist of letters, petitions and memorials. “Strange,” he commented, “that the men do the voting and elect us to these positions, while the women assume the duty of telling us afterward what they want us to do. The right of petition is apparently more prized than the right of suffrage. The women do the petitioning.

“The women’s clubs, federated, amalgamated, consolidated, nationalized, organized, with general committees and advisory boards of consulting agencies and investigating branches, are more active in efforts to shape public policies than any other agency in the nation to-day. He who declares that woman is unfitted for a part in government because she is not equipped by training and interest and study for it is taking long chances of being discredited. He doesn’t know. Congress does.

"Why," said the senator, "if the women of the country should suddenly decide that they wanted the tariff revised, or a rate bill passed, or the coal mines nationalized, we should have it before the men would wake up to know what had happened. The petitions from the women's clubs would do the work.

"Here is an illustration: Some time ago a compulsory education bill for the District of Columbia was introduced in this Senate. There was objection to putting immediately such a law into operation, on the ground that it would send too many children to school for the supply of schoolhouses and teachers. That struck the Washington women's clubs all wrong.

"Just what they did, nobody knows. Presumably they appealed to the national Federation, for the chain-letter scheme was set in motion.

"Every member of the Senate Committee in the District has been flooded with petitions. Many other Senators have received them in great numbers. The bill to which they referred passed the Senate March 6. It will pass the House this session if the women's clubs keep up their work. And they have never yet been known to quit."

Besides this national effort, work for compulsory school laws was pushed elsewhere, and there was manifest on all sides a continual effort in behalf of kindergartens, manual training and domestic science courses and the teaching of ethics in the public schools.

At the St. Paul Biennial the Education Committee brought forward a proposition for the Society of American Women in London to the effect that the Federation gain its sanction and, as far as possible, its assistance to a scheme of international scholarships for women similar to the Rhodes Scholarships for men. This scheme was discussed fully at the Education Conference, where it received most favorable consideration, and



at a later business meeting of the convention the following resolution was presented and adopted :

*Resolved*, That the matter of establishing English scholarships for American women be referred to the Board of the General Federation of Women's Clubs with the following recommendations :

First : That the plan is heartily indorsed as one of great international value and is so recommended to the General and State Federations.

Second : That the proposition of the Society of American Women in London to endow a scholarship in the District of Columbia be accepted with thanks.

Third : That the Educational Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs be asked to endeavor, during the months before the next Biennial, to raise a sufficient endowment for a similar scholarship that shall be open to any suitably qualified American woman.

Fourth : That the state federations be asked to assist in raising this endowment.

Fifth : That, in case experience shall prove the desirability of these scholarships, the state federations shall try to secure funds for state scholarships.

The Committee on Forestry was unique in its composition in that it was made up of the chairmen of forestry committees in the various state federations with Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams of Minnesota as chairman. The report of this committee at St. Paul showed that in many states active work had been done, traveling libraries and lantern-slide lectures had been furnished, circulars containing practical suggestions for forestry work had been sent out, movements to exterminate tree pests and to secure state foresters had been inaugurated. Highway and memorial trees had been planted ; prizes had been offered for essays on forestry ;

coöperation had been secured with the Forest Service for better state forestry, fire legislation, and instruction in forestry in the state universities; and the movements to secure the White Mountain and Appalachian Reserves and to help Minnesota to retain her Chippewa Reserve had been materially aided by clubwomen. The forestry session at the Biennial presented an address on Forestry by Enos A. Mills of the United States Forest Service and another upon Forestry and Homecrafts by George H. Maxwell, Dean of the Homecrafts Guild of the Talisman. The resolution of the Forestry Committee was adopted by the convention :

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs continue its support of legislation that will secure forest reserves of the Appalachian and White Mountains, preserve the integrity of Minnesota forest reserves, and secure the preservation of the Big Trees of California.

The Committee on Household Economics, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Mary Moody Pugh of Nebraska, had circulated, during the interim between the St. Louis and St. Paul Biennials, a thousand copies of the Home Economics number of the Federation Bulletin, as well as a large amount of extra bulletins, bibliographies and personal correspondence. In connection with the working of the Household Economics Committee at St. Paul, was the exhibition of a model flat which demonstrated the possibility of homemaking on a limited income. This flat was visited by every delegate and by many hundreds of clubwomen besides.

The program presented by the Household Economics Committee at the Biennial was an address by Mrs. Virginia C. Meredith of Indiana upon the Power of



Initiative in Homemaking, and another by Mrs. Lynden Evans of Illinois upon Domestic Science and the Practical Housekeeper.

The Committee on Pure Food, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Walter McNab Miller of Missouri, reported a splendid interest everywhere. In twenty-five states the clubwomen had done work for pure food and others had promised to include it in their next year's work.

A complete statement of the condition of pure food legislation in the various states was placed before the convention, and pamphlets, prepared by the Secretary of the Interstate Pure Food Commission, were distributed. But the pivotal work had been, however, in the interest of pure food, and every effort had been exerted by the clubwomen everywhere to secure the passage of the Pure Food Bill before Congress. For months prior to the convention a vigorous campaign had been carried on, and letters from the committee had been sent in all directions, arousing influence which should be brought to bear upon the legislators. Letters going from the officers and from the Bureau of Information had contained appeals for help in the passage of the bill. Telegrams were sent from individuals, from clubs, from state federations, and at the adjournment of the Household Economics session at the Biennial, delegates, visiting clubwomen, officers and committee members sent telegrams to their respective congressmen urging their support. There is no doubt that this action on the part of the clubwomen had its influence upon the final passage of the Pure Food Bill.

The speakers for the Pure Food Committee were James H. Shepard, chairman of the South Dakota Pure Food Commission, whose subject was, How can the

Consumer aid the Pure Food Official? and the Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane who treated of Meat Inspection.

The first work of the Industrial Committee during the period following the St. Louis Biennial was the preparation and distribution of a circular letter in which the chairman, Mrs. Rheta C. Dorr of New York, suggested to the clubs that they should devote their first year to acquiring as much specific knowledge as possible concerning the actual conditions of women in industry. The letter contained also a short but carefully chosen bibliography touching the subject of woman and industrialism. The report of the chairman to the St. Paul convention dealt in no uncertain terms with the distorted view with which the average citizen looks upon the working woman and her relation to the great scheme of the universe.

Mrs. Dorr, out of her personal observation, brought to the attention of the delegates instances in great numbers wherein the working woman and the conditions under which she toiled were clearly evident. At the close of the session two young women were introduced who spoke from personal experience of the need of organization among working women. These women were Miss Alice Nestor of Illinois, President of the Woman's Union of Glove Makers, and Miss Josephine Casey, also of Illinois, employed by the Lake Street Elevated Railroad Company. The session closed with a short address by Miss Mary McDowell, head of the University Settlement of Chicago, Illinois, who gave an account of her work in behalf of a bill in Congress to authorize the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate and report upon the social, moral, educational



and physical conditions of women and child laborers in the United States. At the close of Miss McDowell's address the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs, in convention assembled, indorse the work of the Industrial Committee in its effort to secure the passage of a bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate and report upon the industrial, social, moral, educational and physical condition of women and child laborers in the United States ; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs send a telegram to Representative Gardner, chairman Committee on Labor, urging the passage of the bill during the present session of Congress.

The legislative session presented the report of the chairman, Mrs. Samuel Forter of Kansas, who invited the attention of the convention to the following measures which were to come before the various state legislatures at their next sessions :

1. The regulating of taking of security in certain cases.
2. Laws relative to the sale of personal property.
3. To prohibit advertising concerning certain diseases.
4. To protect the health of children in public schools.

Mrs. George J. Barker of Kansas spoke upon laws women should know, and Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter of Kansas gave an address upon Methods of Legislation.

The Juvenile Court was the subject of a stirring account of his own success by Judge Benjamin B. Lindsay of Colorado. Among the many excellent things which he said was, "We would not have the juvenile delinquent law on the statute books to-day, and I would not be the Judge of the Juvenile Court to-day,

and, no doubt, I would not be here talking to you, if it were not for the fact that the women vote in Denver."

The Library Extension Committee, of which Mrs. Charles S. Morris of Wisconsin was chairman, presented at its conference a detailed account of existing conditions throughout the country, and presented at the regular session of the convention an address by Rev. Florence Buck of Wisconsin, entitled, What we should demand of the Novel. The report of the chairman was also presented, and a list of books for boys and girls, published in coöperation with the American Library Association, was distributed. The chairman recommended that clubwomen should devote themselves more assiduously to the traveling library work, especially in the South and West.

The Literature Committee, whose chairman was Mrs. William Thayer Brown of New Jersey, had been active in stimulating a love for good literature and for a correlated program of study. For this purpose, four excellent syllabi had been prepared and circulated widely. The subjects of these syllabi were "The Development of the Modern Novel," "Study of United States History," "The Modern Drama" and "The Women of the Renaissance and of the Salon." These subjects were chosen in the hope that a consecutive study would bring a clearer understanding, not only of literature, but also of the evolution of social consciousness. In presenting the syllabi the committee expressed themselves as cognizant that the great need in all literary study is to apply literature to life; to emphasize spirit rather than form; and to aim to convert dead fact into quickened thought, to the end that literature might serve its sole purpose, that of inspiration.



The literature session presented Professor S. H. Clark of the University of Chicago, who gave an address upon the subject Literature and the Community.

#### INTERESTING EVENING SESSIONS

The evening sessions of the St. Paul Biennial were thronged with visitors; men and women alike helped to fill the great audience room to the very doors, and on some occasions it was impossible to obtain even standing room for those who were eager to attend. This was especially true upon the evening devoted to Our Opportunities, upon which occasion Jane Addams of Chicago, Illinois, spoke upon Settlement Work and very naturally had much to say of the work which was especially her own, Hull House. Her address was the first upon the program, and a group of working girls, who had arrived too late to hear her, sent a request to the platform that they might see her. Miss Addams, whose ease had been most apparent throughout her earnest appeal to the convention, appeared somewhat embarrassed, and, after expressing her thanks to the young women for their interest in her and her work, she said very simply, "After all, the working girl is the real thing, and we are only onlookers."

At the same session Mrs. Harriet M. Van der Vaart spoke of the Consumers' League, John A. Butler of the National Municipal League, Miss Helen M. Winslow of Clubwomen and the Press, John Quincy Adams of the American Civic Association, Samuel McCune Lindsay of the National Child Labor Committee and Mrs. Cynthia Westover Alden of the International Sunshine Society.

The evening of June 5 had been arranged by

Mrs. Philip N. Moore, First Vice President of the General Federation. It was the evening with Women Composers, and a delighted audience listened to a program in which there was neither excuse nor failure. The women whose compositions were rendered were Mrs. H. H. A. Beach, Augusta Holmes, Amy Woodforde Finden, Liza Lehmann, Clara Schumann, Chaminade, and Harriet Ware. The artists were William W. Nelson, U. S. Kerr, Carlo Fischer, Madame Hissem de Moss and Madame Olga Samaroff, with Mrs. Frank L. Hoffman, Miss Carrie Marie Zumbach and Miss Harriet Ware as accompanists. The women's chorus of St. Paul under the direction of Professor E. C. Merdock assisted in the presentation of a cantata by Mrs. H. H. A. Beach.

Another evening which was most enthusiastically received was devoted to Clubwomen in Professions, and various branches were presented as follows:

Education, by Miss Mary E. Wooley, President Mt. Holyoke College.

Journalism, by Mrs. May Alden Ward, Second Vice President General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Ministry, by Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Law, by Mrs. Philip Carpenter, New York Bar.

Stage, by Miss Amelia Bingham, New York City.

Medicine, by Dr. Sarah H. Kendall, Seattle, Washington.

The evening which brought the eighth Biennial to a close was entitled The President's Evening. The sentiment "East, West, Home's Best" was taken as the central thought and addresses were given upon The North by Miss Caroline M. Beaumont, Minnesota;



The South by Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker, Texas; The East by Mrs. Walter S. Irons, Rhode Island; The West, by Mrs. William Douglas Farmer, California. Appropriate music rendered by a quartette followed each address, while "Home, Sweet Home" was sung, after the response, by the President.

The business meetings of the convention had been well attended; each matter was well discussed and full opportunity given to every delegate to express herself upon the questions under consideration.

The recommendations of the President were all adopted; telegrams were sent to the President of the United States and public men at Washington, District of Columbia, to the United States Senate, to Congressman Hepburn and to Speaker Cannon, urging the passage of the Pure Food Bill, the Bill to preserve Niagara Falls, and for action upon the Appalachian and White Mountains Reserve Bill.

A special committee appointed to investigate club conditions in San Francisco and vicinity and present a plan of assistance to them in their affliction, caused by the great earthquake and subsequent fire, offered the following recommendations, which were adopted:

That the General Federation Treasurer be authorized to receive all contributions from clubs, federations and individuals. These funds to be paid by the General Federation Treasurer to the Executive Committee of the California Federation, to be used in its best judgment for the reorganization of club work in the San Francisco district and vicinity.

The dues of the stricken district were remitted for a year and the payment of dues for the following year left to the discretion of the incoming Board of Directors.

The *Federation 'Bulletin*, edited and published by Mrs. May Alden Ward and Miss Helen A. Whittier of Boston, was adopted as the General Federation organ, with the agreement on the part of the General Federation publishers that free copies should be sent to the presidents of state and national federations, to the presidents of all organizations in the General Federation, to General Federation secretaries and to members of standing committees. There was also an additional agreement that advance sheets of official matter should be sent to all club journals.

The following resolutions were submitted to the Committee on Resolutions and by them to the convention by whom favorable action was taken :

*Whereas*, The maintenance of the forests of the land is essential to national prosperity and the need of trained foresters and experimental work urgent, even beyond the power of the individual states to provide for at the present time; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs indorse Forestry Bill 10,100 and the chairman of the Forestry Committee be instructed to use such indorsement at such time as in her judgment seems wisest or best for the general forestry interests.

The following resolution was inadvertently omitted by the Resolution Committee from its report, but was adopted by the Council and the Board of Directors and ordered printed in the official report :

*Whereas*, The President of the United States in transmitting to Congress the report of the investigations of the great packing houses announces that the conditions disclosed are revolting, uncleanly and unsanitary, and that immediate legislation is necessary to remedy these conditions; therefore,



*Resolved*, By the General Federation of Women's Clubs now in session, representing half a million women of our country, that we urge upon the Congress of the United States speedy and effective legislation to protect the homes of the country against these shocking and dangerous evils.

Mrs. D. N. Cooley of Dubuque, Iowa, and Mrs. Susan Look Avery of Louisville, Kentucky, were elected Honorary Vice Presidents of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The ticket as submitted by the Nominating Committee was elected by the convention with the following result :

President, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, Denver, Colorado.

First Vice President, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, St. Louis, Missouri.

Second Vice President, Mrs. May Alden Ward, Boston, Massachusetts.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Charles A. Perkins, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, Chicago, Illinois.

Treasurer, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, Los Angeles, California.

Auditor, Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker, Austin, Texas.

Directors :

Mrs. O. P. Kinsey, Indiana.

Mrs. Sarah A. Evans, Oregon.

Mrs. W. A. Johnston, Kansas.

Mrs. Alice M. Johnson, Rhode Island.

Mrs. Guy R. C. Allen, West Virginia.

Mrs. Philip Carpenter, New York.

Mrs. William P. Orr, Ohio.

Mrs. Frank N. Shiek, Wyoming.

## THE NINTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### DUTIES OF STATE SECRETARIES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

THE first work of the Board of Directors following the adjournment of the St. Paul Biennial was the appointment of the standing committees, advisory committees and the Manager of the Bureau of Information, as well as the consideration of resolutions referred to by the convention. Special committees were also appointed to formulate rules covering the duties of the General Federation State Secretaries and Advisory Committees. These committees rendered reports as follows :

For General Federation State Secretaries :

1. She shall endeavor to promote the interests of the State Federation as well as of the General Federation.

2. She shall endeavor to know of the existence of every eligible organization in her state that is not a member of the General Federation, with the end in view of securing the membership of such organization.

3. Each State Federation is requested to make the Federation State Secretary a member of its Board of Directors or to select her from among the members of the Board.

4. She shall be the official correspondent between the state and the Bureau of Information in collecting data, including yearbooks, and all printed matter that is desirable for filing.



5. She shall report to the Federation the status of the club work in her state. At such meetings she shall set forth the purpose of the General Federation and the value of membership.

6. Stationery and postage shall be furnished by the General Federation.

For Advisory Committees:

The plan of appointing an Advisory Committee in connection with certain standing committees of the General Federation was adopted by the Board of Directors in the belief that advice and suggestions from experts might be very valuable to the standing committees.

The duty of an Advisory Committee is to place before the chairman of the standing committee any plans or suggestions that it considers helpful to the work of the General Federation. The Advisory Committee is not expected to take action in the name of the General Federation, but to advise the standing committee. The chairman of the standing committee will submit such advice or suggestion to the Board of Directors or to the Executive Committee before taking action. The chairman is by no means limited to the suggestions from the Advisory Committee.

Copies of the foregoing rules were sent to all General Federation State Secretaries and to members of Advisory Committees.

The invitation of the Massachusetts State Federation to hold the ninth Biennial convention in Boston was accepted unanimously. The Board of Directors had given careful consideration to the program of the convention and to the proposed amendments to the by-laws.

The Executive Committee for 1906-1908 were:

Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker.

Mrs. Philip N. Moore.

Mrs. May Alden Ward.

Chairmen of standing committees for 1906-1908 were appointed as follows :

Art Committee, Mrs. John B. Sherwood.

Civic Committee, Mrs. Joseph B. Dibrell.

Civil Service Reform Committee, Miss Anna Lewis Clark.

Civil Service Reform Advisory Committee, Miss Perkins.

Education Committee, Miss Mary Merriman Abbott.

Education Advisory Committee, Miss Sarah Louise Arnold.

Forestry Committee, Mrs. P. S. Peterson.

Household Economics Committee, Mrs. Margaret J. Blair.

Industrial and Child Labor Committee, Mrs. Clarence Burns.

Industrial and Child Labor Advisory Committee, Miss Jane Addams.

Legislative Committee, Mrs. Mary Morton Kehew.

Library Extension Committee, Mrs. Addison F. Broomhall.

Literature Committee, Miss Mary B. Poppenheim.

Outlook Committee, Mrs. T. J. Fletcher.

Pure Food Committee, Mrs. Walter McNab Miller.

Reciprocity Committee, Mrs. Herbert M. Bushnell.

In July, 1907, the biennial meeting of the Council was held at Jamestown, Virginia. There was a good attendance including three representatives from the Society of American Women in London.

Resolutions were passed in appreciation of the memory of Miss Mary Abbott, chairman of the Education Committee, and Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams, former director and chairman of the Forestry Com-



mittee. Resolutions which had been adopted by the International Arbitration and Peace Conference were also indorsed by the Council as follows:

*First.* The creation of a parliament of nations.

*Second.* The conclusion of a general arbitration treaty.

*Third.* Provision that the differences which nations exclude from arbitration because affecting vital interests or national honor shall, before declaration of war, be referred for examination to a commission of inquiry which shall make a public report of their judgment thereon.

*Fourth.* The limitation and, if possible, the reduction of armaments by international agreement.

At this time the Council recommended to the various state presidents the adoption of a uniform size for state yearbooks and suggested that the Illinois yearbook be used as a model.

#### AMALGAMATION OF FORCES

A new committee was created by the Board of Directors under the title of Interfederation Committee. The work of this committee was to concern itself with the points of relation between the General Federation and the state federation. The result of this committee's work was a most excellent leaflet, which was circulated very widely, and a division of the various states with the assignment of each group to a member of the Board of Directors who should keep in touch with and bring to the Board a report of the needs and conditions in her territory.

In September, 1906, the editors of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* issued a number devoted almost entirely to the Woman's Club Movement in the United States during the past

ten years. The articles contained in the issue were prepared by prominent clubwomen, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, Mrs. May Alden Ward, Mrs. A. O. Granger, Mrs. Dotha Moore, Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker and Mrs. John D. Sherman. This number of the *Annals* was used very largely by the clubwomen as a textbook upon club activities.

The English Scholarship for American Women was given most careful consideration, and at the ninth Biennial about two thirds of the amount necessary for the establishing of one graduate scholarship had been pledged.

During this period several alliances of great value had been formed. The most important of these was the conjunction for educational work of the five affiliated societies, The Association of Collegiate Alumnæ, the National Congress of Mothers, the Southern Association of College Women, the National Council of Jewish Women and the General Federation of Women's Clubs which was admitted as a department into the National Educational Association under the title Educational Department of National Organizations of Women, with the following officers: President, Dr. Laura Drake Gill of the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ; Vice President, Mrs. Frederic Schoff of the National Congress of Mothers; Secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The purpose of this department was, "By meeting each year in the National Association, these national societies of women may coöperate more successfully with each other and with the educators of the country in bringing the home and the school into more helpful relation."

Another committee from which practical results



were expected was the Committee on Coöperation of the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ and the General Federation, which was to consist of three members from each organization.

Still another step toward the amalgamation of forces was the appointment of a committee, upon the request of the National Civic Federation, to coöperate with other organizations to make a thorough investigation of the whole subject of Child Labor in the United States. The other organizations that had become interested in this work were the National Association of Manufacturers, The American Federation of Labor, The National Civic Federation and the American Economic Association.

The most conspicuous honor conferred upon the General Federation of Women's Clubs was the invitation from President Roosevelt to its President to attend the Conference of Governors at the White House, May 13, 1908. Invitations had been sent to each governor, who was allowed to bring also three advisers, the Congress, Cabinet, Supreme Court, and various national organizations, but upon Mrs. Decker fell the honor of being the only woman delegate. This conference was an occasion of historic significance, where the great intellectual, economic and deliberative forces of the country met to consider the physical and moral regeneration of the land, and the General Federation was justly proud of this tacit recognition of its value as an integral part in the upbuilding of a nation.

Boston was chosen as the meeting place for the Ninth Biennial Convention and the women of Massachusetts were busy during the twelve months preceding the convention. The state federation, which was

large and flourishing, had undertaken to raise all the money necessary to meet the expenses of the Biennial week, and each committee strove to become perfect in the discharge of its duties.

#### NINTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — BOSTON

The week of June 22-30, 1908, was decided upon, and the opening meeting was held on the evening of June 22. The occasion was graced by the presence of the governor, Hon. Curtis Guild, the mayor, George A. Hibbard, two honorary presidents of the General Federation and the past presidents of the hostess federation. Welcoming addresses were given by each of these dignitaries, and the response was made, in behalf of the General Federation, by its President, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker. Following the opening exercises the convention was addressed by Professor Charles Zueblin upon the subject, Culture and Democracy.

During the biennial period just passed the Art Committee had continued the work of the preceding period and had collected and managed the circulation of three traveling art galleries. Each gallery contained about fifty oil and water colors loaned to the Federation by well-known American artists, and a few original etchings, many of them by great masters, Whistler, Rembrandt and others. Wherever a gallery was sent the clubwomen had arranged to have a free public exhibit to which teachers and school children were especially invited. During the year just preceding the Boston Convention the galleries visited more than two hundred towns and twenty-seven states. The splendid influence of this one feature of the art work can scarcely be overestimated.



Another distinct accomplishment was the preparation of an Art Handbook by Mrs. E. W. Pattison of Missouri, which contained a list of some of the best works of art in America. The object of this handbook was, in the words of Mrs. Decker, twofold. First, to arouse to a sense of their deficiency the cities and communities not mentioned in this "Roll of Honor"; and second, to interest art clubs and art-loving citizens in the plan of a municipal art commission for every community, large or small, a commission composed of artists and experts, serving without compensation, to whom shall be referred the selection of all proposed public monuments, memorials, etc., to the end that the coming generation at least may have the cultivation of eye and soul which is bred by the genuine in art.

The Civic Committee had labored in a direction somewhat parallel in purpose to that of the Art Committee, since a great stress had been placed upon the need of a proper conception of and determination for higher municipal art. Letters and circulars were sent out urging the necessity of civic commissions which should be in reality art commissions. March 10 was set apart as Civic Rally Day, and the clubs everywhere were urged to observe that date in an appropriate way. State federations were requested to institute among the clubs the study of laws affecting women and children, to preserve the names of historic spots, and to persuade the railroad companies to mark conspicuously all streams over which their roads passed.

A subcommittee of the Civic Committee was the Health Committee, under the particularly efficient leadership of Mrs. Rufus P. Williams of Massachusetts.

The great benefit accomplished by this committee for the better understanding of the prevention and care of tuberculosis would be impossible to estimate. Circulars and letters were sent broadcast throughout the land, posters were placed in all public places, books were given to the Bureau of Information through which they were loaned widely to inquiring clubwomen and a great general campaign of education was waged. The Health Department issued as its basis of work the following plan :

1. Use every method to impress the facts of the curability and preventability of tuberculosis.
2. Place the General Federation wall card.
3. Urge the establishment of sanatoria for incipient cases, and hospitals for incurable ones.
4. Urge the State Board of Health to issue publications, and assist in the distribution of them.
5. Urge the passage and enforcement of local ordinances in regard to expectoration in public places and the necessary disinfection of rooms.
6. Hold public meetings having for their object the improvement of local health conditions.
7. Organize anti-tuberculosis and visiting nursing associations.
8. Create and circulate state exhibits.

Everywhere the women were aroused, and no subject, unless a possible exception be made of the Pure Food Campaign, was ever so thoroughly and exhaustively brought before the clubwomen. Scarcely a town could be found, where a woman's club existed, in which there was not some evidence of the untiring efforts on the part of Mrs. Williams and her coworkers to bring knowledge, and the proper application of that knowledge, before the public.



At the time of the Biennial the Civic Committee presented the subject of Municipal Art with Mr. C. Howard Walker of Boston as the speaker and Methods and Factors in Civic Work was the subject of an address by Mrs. W. W. Penfield of New York. Miss Sadie American of the National Playground Association presented the subject of Play and Playgrounds, and a model playground, fully equipped, was on exhibition in one of the great vestibules at Symphony Hall. With this exhibit was a trained worker who carefully and repeatedly explained the models and their usefulness.

Although not strictly a part of the civic work of the General Federation, a very interesting experiment in civics was made during this biennial period which bears such close relation to the work of the General Federation of Women's Clubs that it justly deserves mention. The work of digging the world's greatest artificial waterway was in reality not alone an industrial problem, but it was also a social problem. Between the Panama Canal and the woman's club there seemed to be no connection until a representative of the National Civic Federation suggested the need of social interest among women in the Canal Zone in order to make contented the women upon whom depended the family life of the men of skill who were indispensable to the needs of the government. It was an evidence of the appreciation of women's clubs held by the administration at Washington that it should turn to them as a means of remedying the unrest and dissatisfaction which was grievously afflicting the residents of the Canal Zone. Accordingly Miss Helen Varick Boswell of New York was sent by the govern-

ment to establish women's clubs in the larger towns throughout the Zone. This was a movement toward real civics, and the result was not alone the establishing of clubs, but the formation of a Canal Zone Federation, a delegate from which was in attendance upon the Boston Biennial.

The Civil Service Reform Committee was untiring in its efforts to bring the public to a realizing sense that Civil Service Reform was not politics in the old and objectionable sense, but rather a work for the establishment of a merit system by which value rather than favoritism should be the test of labor. It was but inevitable that, in spite of the vigilance of the committee, the tangible results should be less than in the case of many other standing committees. Wherever a park is laid out, a city street kept clean, or an avenue of trees planted, it is easy to see and report upon work accomplished; but the more difficult and subtle task of creating, changing, and molding public opinion however important it may be, is far less apparent or easy of recognition. At the session devoted to the Civil Service Reform Committee at the ninth Biennial, a most encouraging report was given of the increased interest in many states; the subject of Patriotism in Civil Service Reform was presented by Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Main of the District of Columbia; and an address upon State and National Institutions was given by Rabbi Morris M. Feuerlicht of Indiana.

The death of the chairman of the Education Committee was of necessity a great blow to the progress of that committee's plans. Miss Abbott had possessed a rare combination of qualities; while being an idealist of the finest and highest type, she was in the true sense



a practical worker. These unusual qualifications were shown clearly in the plans which she had formulated for her department as set forth in what she herself termed an aim and five general principles:

*Aim:* That all children in the United States shall have equal educational opportunities.

*Principles:* (1) Strong and well-enforced child labor and compulsory education laws in every state. (2) A sufficient number of well-equipped and well-cared-for schoolhouses in every community. (3) A properly trained and adequately paid teaching force. (4) Expert paid supervision of all school work. (5) Training for the hand and moral instruction in all public schools.

The affiliation with the National Educational Association by means of the Department of National Organizations of Women was the first example of the means toward the end which she desired.

Miss Abbott's plans also included the raising of funds to send at least one American woman to England to take advantage of the proposed scholarship. The scholarship plan was presented to the Boston Biennial by a communication from Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer Glynes of London, well known and remembered as Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, chairman of the Advisory Board, by whom the organization of the General Federation of Women's Clubs was effected.

After Miss Abbott's death, the committee continued their work as outlined for them, and recommended to the delegate body at the Biennial continued effort in the direction already entered upon. At the conference upon educational matters there was full and free discussion upon such subjects as Industrial Education, Medical Inspection and the School Nurse. At the

regular educational session of the convention Miss Gill presented the plans of the National Women's Organization Department of the National Educational Association, and Mrs. Desha Breckenridge spoke at length upon The Educational Work of the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs.

The work of the Forestry Committee had been greatly augmented by the advice and coöperation of the United States Forest Service, by which much valuable literature was placed at the disposal of the committee, and the invaluable services of Mr. Enos A. Mills were secured for the clubs. During the year just preceding the Boston Biennial Mr. Mills gave addresses in forty-two states, before women's clubs, university students, normal and high schools, as well as several men's organizations. He also addressed the legislature in several states, the entire lecture course of the year being arranged by the chairman of the Forestry Committee. Mr. Mills' direct manner of presenting his subject was without doubt the best possible means that could have been devised for arousing the public from their apathy. The general aim of the committee was to make the love of trees more universal and their planting more general, as well as to call attention everywhere to the value of forest protection and preservation. The protection of the birds was also urged as a feature of forestry work and a more general observance of Bird and Arbor Day was strongly advocated. "A Nature Lover's Creed," written by the chairman, Mrs. P. S. Peterson, was distributed among the clubs with excellent results.

At the convention Mrs. May Riley Smith of New York, under the title The Voice of the Forest, spoke



of bird and insect life, presenting both the beneficial and dangerous work of these inhabitants of the woods. Mr. Enos A. Mills spoke of the Spirit of the Forest, touching upon the many manifestations of a beneficent nature to be found therein.

A very excellent program at the Biennial was made by the Household Economics Committee whose work throughout the preceding months had been very largely toward the introduction of domestic science and art into the public school curriculum. A report was given by the chairman, Mrs. Margaret J. Blair of Minnesota, which set forth the progress which had been made. Outlines had also been issued by members of the committee upon Domestic Science, Home Management, and Domestic and Household Art. Fully three thousand of these courses of study were distributed among clubwomen.

Mrs. Ellen H. Richards of the Institute of Technology of Boston, Massachusetts, presented the subject, How can the Increased Cost of Living be regulated to meet the Decrease in the Salaries of Clerks and Professional Men? and Mrs. Burton Smith of Georgia addressed the delegates upon the subject, What are the Three Essentials of Home Life which can be considered of Greatest Importance? Mrs. Robert J. Burdette of California spoke on What can we do to make Practical Living more interesting to the Home Maker? and Mrs. Juniata Sheppard of Minnesota upon How shall we teach the Mother to recognize the Necessity of a Sanitary Home?

The session closed with arguments by Mrs. Olaf Guldlin of Indiana for the continuance of the Home Economics standing committee.

The Legislative, Industrial and Child Labor Committees combined in bringing to the Boston Biennial a report of the work undertaken by these committees since the St. Paul Biennial. This report was presented by Mrs. Clarence Burns in place of Mrs. Kehew, whose resignation as chairman had been received. The report showed much activity and noticeable gains in legislative action in many states. These committees presented Senator Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana, who spoke upon National Legislation on Child Labor; Miss Sarah Louise Arnold, Dean of Simmons College, Boston, who spoke on Industrial Education; and Mrs. Joseph Medill McCormick, Chairman of the Woman's Department of the National Civic Federation, who spoke on Welfare Work.

The Literature Committee had, very early in the biennial period following the eighth Biennial, decided upon a plan of action which covered three distinct points: (1) helps for the individual clubwoman; (2) helps for the individual club; (3) helps for the state federation. These plans were carried out in the following manner:

For the individual clubwoman there were published, in the official items of the General Federation through the medium of the *Federation Bulletin* and other club journals, lists of books on historical, literary or sociological subjects which should serve as suggested reading lists. A further means of attention to the wants of the individual clubwoman was the constant replies sent out by the members of the committee to inquiries sent by clubwomen.

For the individual clubs the committee prepared four standard programs which were very much in



demand. The first, prepared by Miss Dotha Stone Pinneo of Connecticut, was entitled Twelve Famous Novels; the second, prepared by Miss Emilie Blackmore Stapp of Iowa, was entitled The Bible as Literature; the third, prepared by Miss Helen M. Winslow of Massachusetts, was entitled English Poetry of the Nineteenth Century; the fourth, prepared by Miss Louise Graham of Ohio, was entitled Women in Education. Each program formed a little pamphlet with appropriate divisions and appended bibliography. These pamphlets proved to be excellent material to meet the needs of the clubs in the preparation of the year's study outline. In addition to these syllabi, a special program was prepared upon Whittier and another upon Lanier, the former by Miss Helen M. Winslow and the latter by Major Cumings of South Carolina Military Academy.

For the state federation, the committee recommended that a Chairman of Literature be appointed in each state whose duty it should be to cultivate, so far as possible, a taste for good literature and to conduct one evening's literary session at each annual convention. The literary session at the Biennial presented Miss Olive Tilford Dargan, who read an Ode to Woman which she had written for the occasion; Parochialism in Literature by Thomas Nelson Page; and Journalism and the Intellectuals by Edward H. Clement.

The work of the committee was progressive and of great value in its effort to correlate and direct the work of the study clubs throughout the federation.

Meanwhile the work of the Library Extension Committee was unabated. Traveling libraries were in-

creasing rapidly, and lumber camps, mining camps, mountain districts, homes and institutions of every kind, hospitals and schools, all felt the interest which was fostered and encouraged by this committee. In the wake of the traveling library was the free public library, and the state library commission, and everywhere the clubwomen were coöperating with the workers to place in every town and city of the nation ample library facilities. At the library session Mr. James H. Canfield, Librarian of Columbia University, spoke of the Place and Value of the Public Library. In opening his address he paid a tribute to the clubwomen in the following words :

“Madam President, and Members of the Federation : It is a great pleasure to be your right hand man even for a few moments, and it is a greater pleasure to have the opportunity at last to express directly to the members of the General Federation what I have so often tried to express to those who represented the various component parts of the Federation ; my sense of obligation, personally and officially, to the work of women's clubs throughout the Western states. If you imagine for a moment that there are not thousands of men, even ‘mere men,’ throughout this country who understand what you are doing, who appreciate what you are doing, then you are very greatly mistaken. I know of no one power, no one influence, which has accomplished more for education in this country than the organization known as women's clubs in the various states of the Union ; no one force upon which educators always feel that they can rely so implicitly without a shadow of turning, without a shadow of wavering from the line of loyal support and maintenance. As one who for more than thirty years has known the work that is being done in higher institutions of the country, I am very glad, indeed, Madam President, of



the opportunity of expressing this sense of obligation this morning."

Testimony of this kind from a source so high was most gratifying to those women who, for several years, had bent every effort to secure telling results.

The new department of the General Federation, the Bureau of Information, was a place of great activity during the biennial interim. The motto of the General Federation often repeated in the earlier days, "From each according to her store; to each according to her need," was the underlying principle of the Bureau. From every possible source was collected material: from the clubwomen there were press clippings, essays, books and magazines; from the club came the year-book with its tried and true study outlines; from the state federations, its accumulated circulars setting forth the work of its committees and its letters of suggestion for future effort; from the General Federation committee member came unstinting aid in meeting and answering the perplexing questions; from the officers came words of encouragement; from the public came glad and ready coöperation. To the many applicants for assistance were sent suggestions, information, references, loans of books and magazine articles; in short, thousands of clubwomen used the Bureau as a friend in need. Through the medium of the Bureau the interests of the standing committees were advanced, circulars and leaflets were enclosed in the regular correspondence, data were collected from the directory; and wherever and in whatever manner the call came, by aid of the resources at her command, the manager responded to the best of her ability. At the Boston Biennial an exhibit of club books, of study outlines,

of specimens of industries and pictures of clubhouses, attracted the delegate body.

Rhode Island invited the delegates for a playday at Newport, where they were the guests of the Rhode Island clubwomen for an excursion about that charming town and a clambake at the seashore. It was a delightful day, for which the elements combined with the efforts of the clubwomen to make every one happy. A very unhappy and wholly unavoidable accident cast a gloom over the returning party when it became known that one of the tally-ho coaches had been overturned, and Mrs. Eva J. Winn of Massachusetts had received injuries which caused her death; and Mrs. Sarah H. Shute of Iowa had died suddenly from acute indigestion as she was about to enter the boat for an excursion about the bay. On the following morning memorial service was held at the opening of the session.

On Sunday afternoon of the Biennial week a vesper service was held in Symphony Hall. The service was arranged and conducted by Miss Mary E. Woolley, President of Mount Holyoke College, and the organ recital was by Mr. B. L. Whelpley, composer and organist of the Arlington Street Church.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The President's message to the Boston Biennial reviewed the work of the preceding two years and offered the following recommendations:

1. Continue the Bureau of Information with approval of added powers.

2. Continue Council meetings between Biennials with suggestions for quiet meeting place and informal program.



3. Reorganize Civic Committee into two divisions, to be called "Civic Department" and "Health Department."

4. Discontinue Household Economic Committee, recommending organization of state and club committees instead.

5. Make Legislative Committee to consist of six members, three of whom shall be residents of Washington.

6. Combine Library Extension and Literature Committees, to be called "Library and Literature Committee."

7. Place Outlook Committee under head of business committees, consisting of chairman and president.

8. Change name of Pure Food Committee to "Committee on Food Sanitation."

9. Discontinue Reciprocity Committee, if Bureau of Information is retained.

These recommendations were favorably approved by the convention, with the exception of the one which advised the discontinuance of the Household Economics Committee. This recommendation was offered with a view of securing from the convention proper discussion and a test of interest, and the result attained was a strong and unequivocal decision that the committee should be retained.

The closing evening of the biennial week was devoted to addresses by business women. Mrs. Kate Upson Clark of New York spoke of Women as Publishers; Miss Emily Preston of New York, of Artistic Book-binding; Miss Alice Kinney of Missouri, of Women as Farmers; Miss Vernon Halliday of Ohio, of her work as Machinery Broker; Miss Lillian G. MacQuillan of Rhode Island, of her experience as Club House Manager; Miss Flora Macdonald of Massachusetts, of Woman as Interior Decorator; and Mlle. Christine

La Barraque, herself a blind woman, told the convention what the seeing woman could do for the blind woman in a business way; Mlle. La Barraque also sang groups of songs during the evening.

The Interfederation Committee offered a report with recommendations to state federations warning them to concentrate their effort upon a few legislative measures and unite with other federations in "team work" for the greatest good. The committee strongly urged that state federations should in every case revise their committees to correspond with those of the General Federation. They further advised that all reasonable influence should be used to secure as large an attendance as possible at the Biennials, so that as great inspiration as possible from contact with the General Federation's best workers might be carried back to the state organizations. Other recommendations of the committee were for close observance of the rules laid down by them for the General Federation State Secretary; a place upon the program of each state meeting for General Federation affairs; and a spirit of inter-federation coöperation between the states.

Other subjects discussed at the morning session of the last day were Justice in Journalism by Miss Louise Graham of Ohio; The Personal Appeal by Mrs. Robert J. Burdette of California; and The Telephone Interview by Mrs. Frederick Eggert of Oregon. These subjects were all pertaining to the relation of the press to the individual. Three other short but helpful addresses were given: Wedding Gifts by Mrs. Rotan of Texas; Perverted Hospitality by Mrs. Burton Smith of Georgia; and Christmas Gifts by Miss Elizabeth Green of Pennsylvania.



The closing evening had a program especially arranged to illustrate the motto of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, "Unity in Diversity," and was treated as follows: In Essentials, Unity, Mrs. W. K. James of Missouri; In Non-essentials, Liberty, Mrs. Frances Squire Potter of Minnesota; In All Things, Charity, Mrs. J. W. Orr of California. Music was furnished by the Appleton Ladies' Quartette and the entire audience sang heartily a group of old songs dear to the hearts of all.

At the time of this convention a most interesting club was formed of those women who had occupied seats in the Council of the General Federation of Women's Clubs prior to 1900. This club took the significant name "The Pioneers."

The business sessions of the convention, not already noted in connection with the work of the various committees, continued the *Federation Bulletin* as the official organ and adopted the following resolutions, presented through the Committee on Resolutions:

*Whereas*, Women have proven their ability to cope with the problems that pertain to good citizenship and pure politics; be it

*Resolved*, That during the next two years clubwomen, members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, be untiring in their efforts to create a public sentiment for Civil Service Reform. Be it

*Resolved*, That public-spirited men and women be urged not to relax their influence to place state and county institutions under the merit system of appointment.

*Resolved*, That Civil Service Reform is really a moral, rather than a political reform, and as such, should commend itself to the women of the country, who have been the conservers of morality.



MRS. WILLIAM TOD HELMUTH  
(President of the Pioneer Club)





*Resolved*, That women recognize their responsibility in having laws well enacted and properly administered, and in the education of the youth to the observance of these laws.

*Whereas*, Publicity is essential to the growth of a strong and powerful national organization, and

*Whereas*, Much unfavorable criticism has come to us through unwise and irresponsible newspaper reports; be it

*Resolved*, That we recommend to state presidents an increased and more systematic method of press work, and that, wherever space is procured for club and Federation matter, it is placed so far as possible in charge of a responsible clubwoman.

*Whereas*, Much harm results from the unnecessary publicity of crime;

*Resolved*, That we, as mothers, condemn the practice of many papers which fill their columns with the details of crime and sensational matter which is detrimental to the youth of the country.

*Whereas*, The General Federation of Women's Clubs, at its Biennial meeting of 1906 adopted the program presented by Miss Mary M. Abbott, chairman of the Committee on Education, as a basis of educational work for federated clubs; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the Educational Committees of the state federations and federated clubs the adoption of one or more of the five general education principles contained in that program; namely, Adequate Child Labor and Compulsory Education Laws; A Properly Trained and Paid Teaching Force; A Sufficient Number of Well-equipped and Well-cared-for Schoolhouses; Expert Supervision of all School Work; Training of the Hand, and Instruction in Moral Principles in all Public Schools.

*Resolved*, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs indorse President Roosevelt's far-sighted policy



of conserving our natural resources, and urge legislation in favor of establishing extensive national forests in the southern Appalachian and White Mountain regions.

*Whereas*, As the need of exact information concerning the condition under which women and children are employed becomes more necessary every year; be it

*Resolved*, That we recommend the establishment in the Department of Interior of a bureau in the interest of working women and children, and the Board of Directors recommend that when the bureau is established the President be requested to appoint a woman at the head of it.

*Resolved*, That complete statistics be collected in regard to the occupations in which women and children are engaged, and the laws regulating the same; also that statistics be collected concerning the moral and physical welfare of the working child, whether the child be normal, a dependent, a delinquent or a degenerate; also that bulletins be issued at regular intervals for the information of the public.

*Resolved*, That we recommend that the various states of the Union endeavor to secure by legislative enactment ten hours as the limit of the working day for women.

*Resolved*, That we recommend a united effort to secure national legislation in regard to child labor.

Subscriptions to the English scholarship fund were secured to the amount of \$1064.

The Nominating Committee presented to the convention the following ticket:

President, Mrs. May Alden Ward, Boston, Massachusetts.

First Vice President, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, Los Angeles, California.

Second Vice President, Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, Chicago, Illinois.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Henry H. Dawson, Newark, New Jersey.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frank N. Shiek, Wheatland, Wyoming.

Treasurer, Mrs. G. O. Welch, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Auditor, Mrs. Rudolph Blankenburg, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Directors :

Mrs. Guy R. C. Allen, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Mrs. Phillip Carpenter, New York, New York.

Mrs. Sarah J. Evans, Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. George R. Hancock, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mrs. William A. Johnston, Topeka, Kansas.

Mrs. H. L. Keefe, Walthill, Nebraska.

Mrs. O. P. Kinsey, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, Charleston, South Carolina.

Immediately following the report of the Nominating Committee Miss Lillie Ernst of Missouri from the floor of the convention placed in nomination for the office of President the name of Mrs. Philip N. Moore of Missouri. The result of the balloting was the election of the entire list of officers and directors as selected by the Nominating Committee with the exception of President, for which office the convention elected Mrs. Philip N. Moore.

An effort was made to elect the retiring President, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, as Honorary President of the General Federation, but Mrs. Decker spoke from the platform requesting that such action should not be taken and the motion was withdrawn.



## THE TENTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### HARMONY OF PURPOSE ASSURED

THE election of Mrs. Moore at the Boston Biennial assured to the General Federation a continuation of the work of the past four years. The harmony of purpose which had prevailed between the past and the present President would insure the uninterrupted execution of the policy of the past administration. The new element which was to be introduced was, if possible, a stronger impetus along educational lines. The new President was most closely associated with the best of the educational world. From her earliest youth, her path had been in fields of educational research. Born at Rockford, Illinois, she entered Vassar College at an early age. Graduation at Vassar was followed by several years of study and travel in the Old World. Then came marriage and motherhood, the best school of all for an intimate and lasting sympathy and knowledge of child life. Later a trusteeship in her alma mater, Vassar College, brought her again in closest possible touch with matters of higher education. In these ways and, in recent years, as member and president of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, she had come again into most intimate relations with the work of the leading educators of America and the world. To this should be added the fact of her experience as a

leader in her home city in educational, musical and philanthropic work. She had served in a most creditable manner as a member of the Superior Jury at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Her long service as president and committee chairman in local club and in state federation, and her attendance at every Biennial of the General Federation, in which she had served as Corresponding Secretary, as Treasurer, as Vice President, and as chairman of many important committees including that of Foreign Correspondence, made Mrs. Philip N. Moore the best-equipped woman whom the General Federation could have chosen at this time for their President.

Combined with all this was a knowledge of parliamentary procedure which enabled her to preside with dignity and poise over any session, however difficult; so complete a mastery of detail that every number upon a program of Mrs. Moore's arranging comes off on schedule time.

During the summer of 1908 the following Executive Committee and chairmen of standing committees were appointed to serve for the coming biennial period:

Executive Committee, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, and Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman.

Art Committee, Mrs. Everett W. Pattison.

Civic Committee, Mrs. Edwin F. Moulton.

Health Committee, Mrs. Rufus P. Williams.

Civil Service Reform Committee, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker.

Education Committee, Miss Laura Drake Gill.

Food Sanitation Committee, Mrs. C. F. Amidon.

Forestry Committee, Mrs. F. W. Gerard.



Waterways Committee, Mrs. John D. Wilkinson.

Household Economics Committee, Mrs. Olaf N. Guldlin.

Industrial and Child Labor Committee, Miss Helen Varick Boswell.

Legislation Committee, Mrs. George Watkins.

Literature and Library Extension Committee, Mrs. May Alden Ward.

The Biennial report was printed and distributed by the retiring Recording Secretary, Mrs. John D. Sherman. In the fall of 1908 a Board meeting was held at Colorado Springs, Colorado, at which many minor matters which had been referred by the committee and Council were considered and disposed of properly. A second Board meeting was held at Washington, District of Columbia, in December, 1909.

With a desire to unify the work of State and General Federations, the Board of Directors authorized a list of questions which were sent out by the chairmen of the standing committees, through the medium of a member of each state federation, to every club in the various states. These questions were simple but comprehensive, covering the work of the committee and requesting a statement of the activity shown by each club in the work of that committee. The returns were most satisfactory; and tabulated statements were presented to the following Biennial which enabled the convention to realize more clearly than before the status of work in each state and the harmony of thought and unity of purpose existing between the state federation and the present body.

March 29, 1909, the regular Biennial meeting of the Council was held at San Antonio, Texas. There was a

good attendance and a most interesting and helpful program was presented. The council committee for the Board were Mrs. Guy R. C. Allen of West Virginia, Mrs. W. A. Johnston of Kansas, and Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim of South Carolina. Although the Council was held at a place somewhat distant from the center of the United States, there were, nevertheless, twenty-nine states represented.

The subjects presented were: The Economic Status of Women by Miss Laura Drake Gill, chairman of the Educational Committee of the General Federation; and Social Functions of Literature by Professor William Guthrie of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. An evening program arranged by the San Antonio City Federation furnished the delegates and visiting clubwomen with a delightful musical treat. There were many social features which gave the guests a taste of the unbounded hospitality of the New South. The Council listened to the reports of the various standing committees and the Bureau of Information. The action of the Board of Directors in indorsing the movement for the preservation of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley was ratified, and a resolution was passed in defense of Harvey W. Wiley, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture, whose reputation had been attacked by certain parties who were hostile to the pure food interests.

Although it is true that the Council can only consider and promote the interests of the General Federation, it is conceded by those who attend that such a meeting has its advantage even when compared with a Biennial. The Council brings the officers, delegates and local clubwomen into close and delightful nearness



to each other and affords time and opportunity to discuss more freely the questions which press to the surface wherever club interests and social service are the subjects under discussion.

#### TENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — CINCINNATI

The tenth Biennial was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 11 to 18, 1910. Music Hall with its splendid appointments was selected as the meeting place of the convention. Business meetings were held from 9.15 A.M. to 1 P.M., and the evening meetings began promptly at 8 o'clock.

The Council held its regular ante-convention meeting on the morning of May 11 in the convention hall of Hotel Sinton, the headquarters of the Biennial. Conferences of standing committees were held during the entire week. Hosts of committee women had anticipated the wants of the visiting clubwomen; and the Credential Committee, under the direction of Mrs. D. L. Murray, had reduced to a fine art the arduous work of that committee.

On the evening of May 10 the Ohio State Federation furnished a complimentary concert by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. There were many pleasant social functions during the week.

Other delightful features of this Convention were the reception by the Ohio State Federation at Assembly Hall of the Sinton Hotel; the reception by the Cincinnati Woman's Art Club at the Art Museum; the river excursion with illumination of the city by courtesy of the Citizens' Entertainment Committee; the receptions by the Local Biennial Board at the

Country Club and at the beautiful clubhouse of the Cincinnati Woman's Club. There were many other social events in connection with the convention which it is hard to pass without mention. Notable among these were the dinner given by Mrs. William Tod Hel-muth, President of the Pioneer Workers, an occasion which brought together many of the early workers and some of the later ones; the reception to the delegates by the local Federation of Women's Clubs of Kenton and Campbell Counties, Kentucky, at Fort Thomas; and many courtesies extended by prominent private citizens.

The opening meeting was held on the evening of May 11. Addresses of welcome were given: from the clubs, by Mrs. Lawrence Maxwell, chairman of the Local Biennial Board; in behalf of the state, by Governor Judson Harmon; in behalf of the city, by Mayor Louis Schwab; in behalf of the Citizens' Committee, by William B. Mellish, chairman; in behalf of the Ohio Federation, by Mrs. Addison F. Broomhall, president.

#### FOR WHAT ARE WE WORKING?

Among the excellent things which were said by the President in her response was this delineation of the work of the General Federation:

"For what are we working in this somewhat strenuous fashion? We have passed through one period after another, of educational, altruistic and civic enlightenment, holding fast to each. Conservation has been no new word, no new idea.

"We have examined into and conserved the life of the child in work, through child labor and compulsory education laws in many states; in play, through



effective effort for playgrounds, well-equipped parks and baths, for the use of schools for recreation centers; in the home, realizing that the conditions under which a child lives are a large part of his life; in school, pressing medical and nursing inspection, urging summer schools, and schools for the defectives and even for the delinquents, thus saving the waste of brain power and consequent mental and moral deterioration.

"For our own homes we have insisted upon food pure and clean; we have gone directly to the markets, and to the laws of the land, for regulations which will assist the homekeepers in conserving the health of the household.

"We have no platform unless it is the care of women and children, and the home, the latter meaning the four walls of the city, as well as the four walls of brick and mortar.

"Our policies are our departments—and you will hear during the next eight days of many interests other than those I have emphasized."

Following Mrs. Moore's reply to the addresses of welcome, Rev. Charles Frederick Goss of Cincinnati spoke upon Conservation in its Broadest Form.

The second day was given over to greetings from honorary members, from affiliated organizations, from foreign members and clubs, and reports of officers and committees. The Credential Committee reported as present nine hundred and seventy-nine delegates, three hundred alternates, and representatives from two foreign clubs and nine affiliated organizations. There was also in attendance upon all meetings a very large number of visiting clubwomen and, at the evening meetings, many men. The hall was filled to the doors upon many occasions.

The policy of the administration, as outlined in the President's report, was of coöperation, — coöperation,

and not competition, with such bodies of organized workers whose aim was the betterment of humanity along lines of mutual interest.

During the biennial period which had just passed ample proof had been given that this spirit of coöperation was reciprocated by other national bodies. Mrs. Moore had been asked to preside at one of the post-session series of the International Congress on Tuberculosis, where the chairman of the General Federation Health Committee had presented the work of women's clubs, and had also been given charge of a department during the regular sessions.

The President and the chairman of the department most closely affiliated with their work had been invited to membership upon the executive Boards and Committees of the National Child Labor Committee, the National Civic Committee, the Conservation Association, the Tuberculosis Association, the Peace Congress, the American Civic Association, and the American Federation of Arts. A member of the Civil Service Committee of the General Federation had been invited to speak at a dinner of the National Civil Service Committee in New York City. At the second Peace Congress the President of the General Federation was one of the speakers. These and many other marks of appreciation had been received during the interim between the Boston and the Cincinnati Biennials.

During the same period the President had visited twenty state federations and forty-two additional cities. Among these was a trip to Panama, at the invitation of the United States government, when a visit was made to the Canal Zone Federation and the individual clubs belonging to it.



In the President's report several problems were presented to the convention for its consideration and action. One suggestion was that the delegate body should consider some plan which might expedite business and allow time for a full discussion of all matters which might come before the body for attention. Another problem was that of income; attention was called to the income of other organizations, which were thereby enabled to carry on great projects which the General Federation was obliged to forego, notwithstanding its greater size and its consequent far-reaching influence. As a solution for this embarrassment an endowment fund was suggested. A third problem was the preparation of a History which should cover the twenty-one years of growth and development through which the General Federation of Women's Clubs had passed. A fourth problem was the General Federation organ.

#### WORK OF VITAL INTEREST ACCOMPLISHED

The reports of the committees proved conclusively that more and more the best work of the General Federation was being accomplished by the standing committees with their expert chairmen and carefully chosen membership.

During the years 1906-1908 the Art Committee had published an enlarged edition of the "Handbook of Art in Our Own Country"; work in behalf of the Payne Tariff Bill had been pushed vigorously because of the provision contained therein for the admission to America of all works of art over twenty years old; clubs had reported great activity in the study of Municipal Art; articles by the chairman had appeared in

the *Federation Bulletin*, *Club Notes* and other club journals; members of the committee had contributed help and advice to all parts of the country. In addition to the new handbook of art, a member of the Art Committee, Miss Mary C. Wheeler of Rhode Island, had published at her own expense a twenty-page pamphlet entitled, "The Relation of the Art Committee in the Woman's Club to Industrial Education."

An art census was taken and a gain of more than one hundred per cent was found in the number of clubs studying art, while a large number of clubs were shown to have art collections and lecture courses including art subjects. At the art session at the Biennial Henry Turner Bailey of Massachusetts spoke upon Practical Art Work for Women's Clubs.

The civic consciousness had been kept alive in every part of the country during the interim between the Boston and the Cincinnati Biennials. A circular issued early in the life of the Civic Committee had been circulated widely, and it was clearly evident that the trend of women's clubs was civicward. Clubs that had formerly existed purely for self-culture now began to ask themselves in what way their acquired information could be applied to practical ends. Women were no longer content to pass unsightly dump heaps of refuse matter on their way to a club meeting where they might listen to a lecture upon Dante. The lack of harmony between a delightful Browning program within doors and unsanitary, unsafe and unwholesome odors and sights without, was beginning to be apparent to the entire membership. Women were quick to discern that a beautiful city was a desirable thing and that before a city could be beautiful it must be clean,



and before it can mete out civic justice to its people it must rest upon a solid foundation in all civic and municipal affairs. With this knowledge came a keener perception of the close relationship which existed between home and city. The woman housekeeper in the home saw many ways by which the housekeeping of the city might be improved. Cleanliness, orderliness, economy, disposal of waste matter, conservation of useful material, these were well-known fields of activity to the average housekeeper and home maker. Once started upon the civic path, there seemed to be no limit to its various ramifications; parks had been purchased, free waste disposals installed, playgrounds equipped and maintained, juvenile courts established, clean-up days inaugurated, thousands of trees planted on arbor days, battles waged against the unsightly billboard, war declared upon the house fly and the mosquito, and rest rooms opened in convenient places for women and children from rural communities.

So energetic had been the members of the Health Committee, which had been established as a subcommittee of the Civic Committee, that after twenty-one months of existence, the report of that committee to the Cincinnati Biennial shows that in forty-eight state federations health committees were doing excellent work, arousing enthusiasm, directing energy, and coöperating successfully with existing agencies having the same aim, elimination of disease.

The printed matter of the Health Committee was circulated widely by the members of the committee and also through the Bureau of Information. State seals were issued by the committee and furnished to the various state federations at merely the price of

production. These were sold by federations and clubs at one cent each, the money received in that way being used for the furtherance of health work. The sale of these seals was very successful, although there were some clubwomen who offered criticism on the ground that the plan too closely resembled that of the National Red Cross Society and advocated the use of the regular Red Cross Christmas Stamp.

In the report of the work of the first Health Committee it was shown that five hundred and forty-six individual clubs had aided in the establishment of camps, sanatoria, anti-tuberculosis clinics and hospitals; four hundred and fifty-two clubs had conducted open air meetings for the improvement of health conditions and two hundred and forty-six had placed wall cards in public places; besides many other clubs which had manifested an active interest in the enforcement of local health ordinances. The most important feature of the subcommittee lay undoubtedly in the fact that it was a means of disseminating information and in that way influencing public opinion and establishing a habit of right thinking on matters of health. "Statistics of influence," said the chairman, "can never be compiled. The impress upon character which results in a habit can never be gauged; it is the thing which has Eternal Life."

The work of the Civil Service Reform Committee, although under the direction of its most enthusiastic advocate, Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, had been moving forward at a somewhat slow pace. The work of this committee had always been seriously handicapped by the lack of a proper understanding even on the part of the state chairmen. A belief was deeply



rooted in the heart of the average clubwoman that civil service reform was purely a question of national politics, while even the exceptional woman, who realized fully that it was a great question not only of political but also of social economy, hesitated to attack a problem the solution of which even the greatest statesmen often felt themselves unable to attain satisfactorily. No committee in the General Federation had ever had so difficult a path to follow, although it is also true that no more zealous advocate had ever espoused any cause than the few earnest women who were determined and undaunted in their efforts to arouse this great body of women to active coöperation for civil service reform. Perhaps nothing will ever bring home more forcibly the obstacles which confront this committee than the address by Miss Anna L. Clark of Missouri at the tenth Biennial. Her subject was *The Lions in the Way: Indifference and Ignorance*. Surely no more formidable foes ever lurked in the pathway of an advancing host. At the Civil Service Reform session the history, progress and outlook of the work of the General Federation committee were presented by Miss Georgie A. Bacon of Massachusetts, Mrs. Frederick H. Cole of Nebraska, and Mrs. Leota W. Keil of Michigan.

The work for education as mapped out by Miss Mary M. Abbott was still the plan for the Education Committee. The chairman, Miss Laura Drake Gill of Massachusetts, had laid especial emphasis upon that section of Miss Abbott's plan which advised manual and moral training. Bibliography had been published and circulated and fully fifteen hundred clubs reported work. Work of all kinds had been pushed according

to the needs and demands of the different localities, and the Education Committee had been expert advisers to a nation-wide activity among clubwomen in coöperation with the regular educational forces already at work.

During this biennial period especial interest was centered in the English scholarship. A sufficient sum of money had been raised to insure a two-years' course and Miss Juliet Stuart Points of Ohio, having complied with all the requirements, had been selected as the first woman to enjoy the benefit of this enlarged opportunity for education. Miss Points was present at the Cincinnati Biennial and spoke of the Purpose and Use of the English Scholarship.

The education session at the Biennial was also the occasion of an excellent address by William H. Allen, Director of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research. This address was so well received and was so full of excellent and helpful thought and suggestion that it was afterwards printed in pamphlet form and circulated by the Education Committee among the clubwomen.\*

Work of the Forestry Committee between the Boston and Cincinnati Biennials was in two directions, one on behalf of forestry legislation, and the other in the interest of the further education of public opinion. Very valuable work for forestry ranging from the public lecture course to the establishment of state reserves was reported from different states, and very notable gains had been secured in many states.

The Waterways Committee, a subcommittee of the Forestry Committee, reported a busy campaign for publicity and education. So little was known through-

\* See Part IV, Doc. XIV.



out the country at large that it seemed imperative that information should be disseminated as broadly as possible. This resulted in a pronounced activity in thirty-nine states; the school children as well as the adult population were aroused and the hearty coöperation of teachers, superintendents and the press was assured.

The session devoted to these two committees at the Cincinnati Biennial presented Mr. William L. Hall, who treated the subject, Saving the Forest Waste; Hon. Joseph E. Ransdell of Louisiana, who spoke upon Our National Waterways; Mrs. Emmons Crocker of Massachusetts whose subject was Other National Wastes; and the greeting of Mrs. Hoyle Tomkies, President of Woman's National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

The Household Economics Committee had early in the biennial period decided, after consulting with such established authorities as the American Home Economics Association and the American School of Home Economics, to bring the acquired knowledge of club-women into closer relation with the technical knowledge of experts and to establish home economics courses in public schools and assist in spreading the gospel of better living in every possible way. To this end they requested the state chairman to attend, as far as possible, to the following matters:

1. To have each club devote one or more sessions to Home Economics.
2. To have Home Economics books put in the public libraries.
3. To have Home Economics taught in the public schools.

4. To have one session of each convention devoted to this subject.

5. To coöperate with state universities and agricultural colleges to secure Home Economics teachers for carrying on short course work and lectures.

6. To keep this committee fully informed by reports, programs and outlines on whatever is accomplished.

Another feature of the work of this committee was the arrangement by which an experienced teacher, Miss Anna Barrows, was engaged to do extension work in Home Economics for two months in the summer of 1909. Although the time was short, every day was used to the best advantage and much additional interest was aroused.

At the convention the report of the chairman showed that the work of this committee was being carried on, in some degree, in a great majority of the clubs and by many individual clubwomen in their affiliation with regularly established domestic science clubs. The session devoted to Home Economics at the Biennial was the occasion for an excellent presentation of the general subject, Domestic Science, Woman's Noblest Calling, by Professor Mary F. Rausch of Colorado; and The Education of Girls, by Martha Van Rensselaer of New York. In connection with the Home Economics session the report of its subcommittee, the Food Sanitation Committee, was given by its chairman, Mrs. C. F. Amidon of North Dakota, after which Harvey W. Wiley of the Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, District of Columbia, spoke at length upon the Conservation of Public Health. Mr. Wiley, whose most valiant allies are the clubwomen, dwelt upon the improvement of food and the necessity of the use



of common sense in nutrition, and urged the clubwomen to be alive to the food problems that confronted them.

The Committee on Industrial and Child Labor Conditions had centered its effort upon four distinct phases of work: (1) the child; (2) conditions surrounding young girls and boys; (3) industrial conditions as they affect women; (4) how to help men and women in the working world. During the entire biennial period there had been constant agitation toward the securing of uniform legislation, as well as the enforcement of good laws already passed in some states, and a never ceasing activity in pushing for legislative enactment the bill for the establishment of a Children's Bureau at Washington. A large amount of literature, principally the pamphlets of the National Child Labor Committee, had been sent out by the committee and through the Bureau of Information. A subcommittee on welfare work had been established with Mrs. F. A. McKissick as chairman. The work of this committee is indicated by its name, and aims to secure for youthful workers, not only better conditions of labor, but recreation and amusement of a safe and wholesome nature.

The chairman of the Committee on Industrial and Child Labor Conditions, in her report to the Cincinnati Biennial, made especial mention of her interest in the work of securing some possible amelioration for the many thousands of women whose work and wages are affected by the competition of contract convict labor. The General Federation committee had been represented at the hearings upon this subject before the Committee on Labor of the House of Representatives and the chairman had secured the coöperation of

the Commissioners of Labor in several states. Other subjects which had commanded the attention of the committee were Old Age Pensions, Employers' Liabilities, as well as every phase of the industrial problem touching women and children. In addressing the delegates Miss Boswell said:

"It naturally hurts my feelings very much to see that a wide-awake Western club called the Searchlight takes no interest whatever in any of these things, or that a 'Child Nature Study Club' in the South has never taken up the subject of child labor, or that a mothers' club in the North cares nothing for either women or children. I cannot but wish that our women would turn more from the tragedies of prose and poetry to the human tragedies which are enacted hourly under our eyes and which could be turned into pleasant domestic dramas if we would but care more for the welfare of the people we can see and know, than for the creations of any mind, however brilliant. Still, great women in great states are pushing forward towards high ideals through practical methods, and the standards of industrial life are ever growing higher — and we are helping."

#### THE DEATH ROLL OF INDUSTRY

A very impressive program was furnished to the tenth Biennial by this committee. The convention listened with solemn attention while John Mitchell, ex-president of the United Mine Workers of America, told of the price in dead and maimed which the victories of peace exact. The Death Roll of Industry was his subject, and most of his hearers knew for the first time that such death roll in the United States exceeded, in a single year, thirty thousand dead and more than two million injured, — three times as many, per thousand



employed, as those of any other country in the world. Following this address was a stirring appeal from Mrs. Perry Starkweather of Minnesota, urging the club-women from each state to secure a department for women and children in state labor bureaus. The game laws of the states were compared with the laws for the protection of children, and a fitting end to this session was found in her closing words, of which the following is a part :

“Suppose a man should know that if he put a child to operate a dangerous machine and the child was injured, not only would he be fined but he would suffer the confiscation of his machine, do you think there would be as many children at work as there are now? Let us then adopt a slogan: ‘Give as good care and as much protection to the child as you do to the game.’ Surely every one would subscribe to so modest a request. Mr. Mitchell has told you of how pitifully the unfortunate who are injured sink into oblivion, how soon they become a charge upon general society. Yet we meet them every day and their sorrows should be our sorrows, if we are Christian women.

“Shall we be less active in our care for this great army of the soldiers of industry than we are for the smaller army of the soldiers in war? What can we do? Ladies, we can do much if we will but try. Men make laws. Women, just such women as you, are all the time writing the greater, higher law—the law stronger and mightier than any written upon the book—the law of Public Opinion. Inform yourselves thoroughly upon these vital and living subjects. Get information as to the truth of conditions and then spread abroad the knowledge you have gained. None of you realize your own influence. Here within sound of my voice is influence enough to overturn or build up a kingdom.

“I urge upon you, get information. Establish in every state a department where all that pertains to

the welfare of women and children may be recorded. Do not wait for a great federal bureau. That will come fast enough when you have one in every state. Minnesota is a great and progressive state, but there is no state in the Union that is not taking care for the future of its citizens. These citizens are the children of to-day. Our sons will be the fathers and our daughters the mothers of a coming people. Let us so rear and teach them that they in turn may leave the world better than they found it. Don't let them forget that culture and art and science and any and every aid to a broader, higher life are but means to the end that they shall be better fathers, better mothers, better citizens."

The legislative session at the Biennial opened with a report by the chairman of the work done by the committee in behalf of the objects submitted to them by the Boston Convention. These objects were: (1) placing works of art upon the free list; (2) Appalachian forest reservation; (3) Anti-tuberculosis Bill; (4) Children's Bureau, and later (5) the preservation of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley. The first object was secured as one of the provisions of the tariff law of 1909; the second was still uncertain although great and wide-reaching had been the efforts of the club-women in its behalf; the third object was recommended to the convention for continued and active work, and the Owen Health Bureau Bill was indorsed by the committee as worthy of support; the fourth object had progressed so far that the Federal Child Bureau Bill was favorably reported, and a majority of the Senate were in favor of its passage. The Hetch-Hetchy Valley Bill was reported as not properly the subject of federal legislation, and further hearings would be called to debate the validity of this decision.



An excellent address was given by Mrs. Nanette B. Paul of Washington, District of Columbia, upon *The Influence of Women on Legislation*, and an equally strong plea for Factory Inspection was made by Miss Ella Haas, State Factory Inspector of Ohio.

The Committee on Literature and Library Extension issued, during 1908-1910, study outlines entitled *English History in English Literature* prepared by Professor P. Orman Ray of Pennsylvania State College. A literary contest was conducted by this committee, and the best papers submitted were published in the *Federation Bulletin* and placed in the files of the Bureau of Information.

The Bureau of Information had continued with an increased volume of work. Requests for study outlines, special programs and the loan of books and magazine articles had been received in great numbers. Questions concerning the work, not only of the regular standing committees, but of practically every active ally of civilization, were sent to the Bureau. Data for the compilation of the annual directory, requiring the sending out of thousands of letters and reply postal cards, and the publication and distribution of the finished directory, had been a part of the summer work of the Bureau each year.

During the Cincinnati Biennial many subjects of vital interest were presented and discussed. Not the least of these was *The Drinking Cup as a Source of Disease*, presented by Dr. Alvin Davidson of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania; *Progress in Civic Betterment*, by Dana W. Bartlett of California; *A Safer and Saner Fourth of July*, by Mrs. Mary McIntosh Harvey; *The Drama League of America*, by the President of

the League, Mrs. A. Starr Best of Illinois; and The Theater and The People, by Dr. Richard Burton of the University of Minnesota. An original poem entitled The Seven Ages of Woman was presented by the author, Mrs. Alice Williams Brotherton of Ohio.

Three evening meetings were of especial interest. The evening of May 14 was devoted to Social Problems. The first subject, Armament *vs.* Disarmament, was treated by Lieutenant James J. Mayes of the 24th United States Infantry. In his address Lieutenant Mayes voiced the sentiment of the advocates of the present condition of army and navy and the necessity of preparing for war even in times of peace. Lieutenant Mayes was followed by Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, a director of the American Peace Society, whose subject was National Dangers and National Defense. Few subjects have ever been so well presented at a Biennial, and no speaker was ever more convincing than this dignified, self-posessed advocate of a system of law in place of a system of war, a world organization for peace in place of a world ownership by force.

The question of woman suffrage was, for the first time in the history of the General Federation presented to the convention, but it was presented in such a way that neither advocate nor opponent could have reason to object. The subject had assumed so great proportions in the world at large and so much agitation upon the subject had been set in motion throughout the civilized world, that it seemed almost to demand recognition upon the platform of a woman's organization devoted to the progress of mankind. Accordingly, selection was made from the best speakers upon either



side; and Miss Kate M. Gordon, Vice President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, presented the cause of Equal Suffrage; and Miss Alice Hill Chittenden of New York, a very able antisuffragist, presented the views of that society; while the question of Restricted Suffrage was presented by a most able paper written by Mr. Rudolph Blankenburg of Pennsylvania, and read, at Mr. Blankenburg's request, by the President, Mrs. Philip N. Moore.

The evening of May 16 was a session devoted to the reports of the state presidents, answering to the question, "What is your State's Best Asset?" The national flag was unfurled, and each president placed her state flag in a receptacle provided for that purpose, making an effective setting for the words of commendation which each president spoke for the work of her federation.

A vesper service, arranged by Miss Mary Woolley, president of Mount Holyoke College, and conducted by Miss Margaret J. Evans, Honorary Vice President of the General Federation, was held on Sunday afternoon; and in the evening a large delegation attended, by invitation, one of the local churches, where Mr. Clifford Roe of Chicago spoke upon The Evils of the White Slave Traffic.

The last day of the convention was full of suggestion for all present. The business session in the morning was followed by reports by the various members of the Board of Directors upon Rural Conditions in America. The time proved too short for the full program, but the addresses were printed in full in the Biennial report, which was later widely distributed among the members of the Federation.

## RETROSPECT AND ACTION

In the evening the subject was Twenty Years of Retrospect and Action. The stage presented a most pleasing appearance. The officers and directors sat upon the platform grouped about the President, who, owing to an accident which had kept her in her room with a broken ankle for the past two days, was brought to the center of the platform in a wheeled chair. There was great admiration expressed that evening for the brave woman who had personally conducted every detail of that great Biennial, and who was present at the closing evening in order that nothing should mar the pleasure and completeness of the occasion. There were those in the audience that night who remembered a former occasion when the remarkable poise of this woman had been tested ; and the story was widely circulated telling how, when Mrs. Moore was the Corresponding Secretary of the General Federation, word had come to her that a tornado had visited her home city and demolished her home. The message which reached her conveyed also the assurance that her husband and children were uninjured ; and, in spite of the nervous anxiety manifested by many others who were about her, she calmly went on with the work of the convention and in no way intruded upon the business of the Biennial her own personal distress. So it was that, upon that last night of the Cincinnati Biennial, few persons, except those nearest to her, would have guessed that the smiling President was bearing severe pain from an injury which would have driven from the average person all thought of anything but her own affliction. In Mrs. Moore's enforced



absence the First Vice President, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles of California, conducted the meetings in a highly creditable manner. This incident exemplified the value of club training for women, and careful choice in the selection of vice presidents, since it enabled the Vice President to instantly assume the duties of the presiding officer, and allowed the business of the convention to proceed with scarcely a noticeable break.

The evening's program was ideal. The first speaker, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford of Pennsylvania, a woman somewhat past middle life, who had been an active worker in the General Federation since its very inception, spoke of Yesterday: the Magic Motto, Unity in Diversity.\* With a delightfully reminiscent air she went back to the very beginning, the Sorosis birthday party, and traced the work of those early days. One by one she brought before her audience the pioneer workers, some of them long since gone to their rest, a long roll of gracious womanhood, whose influence, strength and charm were fully exemplified in the personality of the speaker herself.

Second on the program was Mrs. J. L. Washburn of Minnesota. Her topic was, To-day: Its Spirit and Opportunity.† With a rare grasp of the subject, the speaker set before her hearers the nature of the present organization and its sources of strength, and, although by far the most difficult of the evening's subjects, the ground was covered in such a manner that there seemed nothing more to be desired.

The last address was given by Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker upon, To-morrow: An Outlook into the Future.‡

\* See Part IV, Doc. XV.

† See Part IV, Doc. XVI.

‡ See Part IV, Doc. XVII.

No master mind could have conceived a more impressive ending to a week's consideration of vital human interests than this address before the Tenth Biennial Convention by its most popular member. With her own skill in moving her audience, Mrs. Decker carried her hearers with her while she sounded alarms, heralded approaching victories, and spurred the clubwomen on with visions of future usefulness. It was an ideal ending of a splendid Biennial and a great tribute to the foresight of the mind that conceived it, for it was in truth the President's evening, as it was appropriately termed, since the conception and execution of detail was due to Mrs. Moore alone.

Upon this last evening there was a presentation to the General Federation by the Cincinnati Women's Club of a beautiful silk national flag, and to the President by the men of the Civic Entertainment Committee of an exquisite piece of Rookwood pottery. The presentation of the new officers closed the evening's program.

The Cincinnati Biennial disposed of a rather unusual amount of business. Considerable time was taken both by the Council and by the convention in the discussion of the best plan for an official organ. Several plans were ably presented and very fully discussed, but the final decision was in favor of continuing practically the same arrangement as formerly with the *Federation Bulletin*, which had been sold to *The Conquest*, of New York. The name of the new magazine was later changed to the *General Federation Bulletin*, and the place of publication was henceforth to be from Troy, New York.

Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin of Illinois was appointed a



permanent representative upon the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society.

Resolutions were passed by the convention indorsing the Davis Vocational Bill; the sentiment of the Third Hague Conference, looking toward the settlement of all international differences by law instead of by violence; better legislation and protection on behalf of the working man and woman; the passage of laws to prohibit white slave traffic; the work of the Audubon Society for the protection of bird life; the effort to protect the health of the American people by better pure food measures; the Owen Health Bill; and the selection of a national floral emblem.

Special resolutions of value to the working forces of the General Federation were:

*Whereas*, In many places there is little known of the scope of the work of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; be it

*Resolved*, That when we return to our homes we make strenuous efforts, not only to disseminate the knowledge of the deliberations of this convention, but we earnestly strive to propagate its aims and purposes.

*Resolved*, That we will work during the coming year

1. For better-equipped, better-ventilated and cleaner school buildings.

2. For more numerous, larger and better-supervised playgrounds.

3. For medical inspection and school nurse.

4. For physical education and instruction in personal hygiene.

5. For instruction in normal schools in the methods of wisely presenting the essentials of personal and sex hygiene.

*Whereas*, It is evident:

*First*, That the number of American women who are in possession of property and who are called upon

to have a definite knowledge of their own affairs is rapidly increasing, and

*Second,* That it is of service to every woman, that she have some definite knowledge of her legal rights and obligations, and

*Third,* That the legal rights and obligations of the women of the United States are now largely matters of statute law which varies in several states and

*Fourth,* That a presentation of the law defining the legal rights and obligations of American women should be made for each state separately.

Therefore be it *Resolved* :

*First,* That the General Federation of Women's Clubs in convention assembled, for the service that would be rendered to the women of the United States, would welcome an effort for a systematic presentation of the law relating to women, in a series of state digests.

*Second,* That to further this end, the President of the General Federation is hereby authorized to appoint a special committee representing the several sections of the United States, with power to aid such an undertaking without incurring financial obligations for the General Federation.

*Third,* That the presidents of the several state federations be requested to coöperate with the said committee, and also to bring this matter before the authorities of their state federations to the end that a series of state digests presenting the law relating to women be published under the patronage of the several state federations.

*Whereas,* A knowledge of music is recognized as an educational force in the social and moral culture of the people; be it

*Resolved,* That a standing committee on music be appointed, the purpose of which shall be to promote intelligent comprehension of one of the greatest factors of strength in the homes of the nation.



*Whereas*, The Federation vigorously deprecates the publication of such details as are a menace to public morals, and especially injurious to the taste and the character of growing children in our homes;

*Resolved*, That we oppose this evil in all practical ways and that we endeavor to develop public opinion to appreciate this danger. We earnestly appeal to editors to aid us in our efforts to place in our homes only those publications containing news not objectionable.

*Resolved*, That our national emblem, the American Flag, be displayed at all meetings of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. La Penotiere of Minnesota moved that the General Federation of Women's Clubs take proper action, through its Board of Directors, looking toward a larger and wider interest in the rural women of the United States.

The Nominating Committee reported the list of nominations as follows:—

President, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Missouri.

First Vice President, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, California.

Second Vice President, Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, Illinois.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Henry H. Dawson, New Jersey.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frank H. Shiek, Wyoming.

Treasurer, Mrs. John Threadgill, Oklahoma.

Auditor, Mrs. L. L. Blankenburg, Pennsylvania.

Directors:

Mrs. Desha Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Mrs. H. L. Keefe, Nebraska.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1910-1912

1. Mrs. Harry L. Keefe
2. Mrs. Desha Breckinridge
3. Mrs. Eugene Reilley
4. Mrs. G. O. Welch
5. Mrs. F. N. Shiek
6. Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles
7. Mrs. Philip N. Moore
8. Mrs. Lucretia L. Blankenburg
9. Mrs. C. H. McMahon
10. Mrs. John Threadgill
11. Mrs. Frank White
12. Mrs. Elmer Blair
13. Mrs. J. Creighton Mathewes
14. Mrs. John A. Nash
15. Mrs. Alvin R. Bailey





Mrs. J. Creighton Mathewes, Louisiana.

Mrs. Charles H. McMahon, Utah.

Mrs. John A. Nash, Iowa.

Mrs. Eugene Reilley, North Carolina.

Mrs. Frank White, North Dakota.

Mrs. Fred H. White, Maine.

These nominations were confirmed by the votes of the convention with the exception of the last named. Mrs. Elmer Blair of New York was nominated from the floor and elected a member of the Board of Directors. The voting strength of the convention was nine hundred and seventy-nine; there were three hundred alternates present; and two foreign clubs and nine affiliated organizations were represented.

The recommendations of the President were indorsed by the convention as follows: (1) the Bureau of Information continued; (2) Forestry and Waterways Committees combined to form a Conservation Department; (3) Health and Food Sanitation combined and called Department of Public Health; (4) Committee on Industrial and Child Labor Conditions changed to Department of Industrial and Social Conditions; (5) all standing committees changed to departments of work; (6) General Federation placed upon permanent and efficient basis by establishing endowment fund; (7) a committee appointed to arrange for a History of the General Federation.

Of these the most important was the decision regarding the endowment fund. The recognition of the fact that the time had arrived when the General Federation must be placed upon a permanent basis by an endowment fund, whose income will enable it to be prepared to carry on the education and service work



for which it stands, marked the beginning of a new era in the history of that organization. The great change which had come about in the nature and quality of the Woman's Club Movement, making what was formerly a quasi-literary manifestation now a civic educational movement, had made it necessary that adequate training and dignity must attend its onward march, and only by a material increase of income could this advance be possible.

The conferences of the various standing committees were excellent, helpful and inspiring. They were well attended and discussion was free and full. They proved to be life-giving allies to the expert presentations upon the convention platform.

While all were worthy of mention, there was none so well attended nor so deeply interesting as the conference upon social hygiene. Never in the history of a woman's movement was there a meeting so fraught with the deep-seated interests of humanity as this, nor subjects whose roots struck so deeply into the hearts of the listeners as those presented there.

The meeting was held in Memorial Hall, a little apart from the convention hall, in order that the audience might feel itself free from interruption. It was an audience of women, and the speakers were women. From an experience taught by professional work among those who had felt the ravages of the so-called social diseases, these women physicians, calmly and dispassionately, laid before an audience eager to help but utterly at a loss as to the way to do so, many truths concerning venereal diseases and their far-reaching effects. The greatest of all social evils, with its bearing upon the physical, moral and

economic well-being of the human family, was carefully and clearly presented and discussed. There was neither apathy nor hysteria on the part of speaker or listener, simply an increasing realization of the complex social dangers which surround the youth of the modern world, and the solemn duty which is imposed upon women to understand and assist in the remedy of these conditions. It is true that no decisive plan of action could be determined upon, but it was a deeply impressive conference. Women saw and felt the necessity of a combined effort to work out some plan which should serve humanity; and they realized, some of them for the first time, that if help was to come, the ax must be laid at the root of the trouble and the general tone of public opinion must be elevated, the double standard of morality, now the chief theme of novel and drama, must be clearly understood in all its ramifications and an old-fashioned reverence for chastity revived. Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin of Illinois, Honorary President of the General Federation, presided, and the speakers were Dr. Caroline Hedger of Illinois, upon Maternal Efficiency; Dr. Margaret V. Clark of Iowa, upon Possible Legislation; and Dr. Frances L. Bishop of Missouri, upon Social Diseases and Sex Hygiene.



## THE ELEVENTH BIENNIAL PERIOD

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### DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Almost immediately after the adjournment of the Cincinnati Biennial, the Recording Secretary, Mrs. H. H. Dawson of New Jersey, resigned from her position, and Mrs. George O. Welch of Minnesota was appointed to fill her place. A little later in the year the Second Vice President, Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman of Illinois, resigned on account of ill health; and Mrs. Lucretia L. Blankenburg, Auditor, was elected to that position, and Mrs. Frank White of North Dakota was advanced from the Board of Directors to the position of Auditor. The vacancy caused in the Board of Directors by these changes was filled by the election of Mrs. Alvin R. Bailey of Massachusetts.

The Executive Committee, consisting of the President and both Vice Presidents, was continued during the biennial season and the following chairmen were chosen for the Departments of Work: Art, Mrs. E. W. Pattison of Missouri; Civics, Mrs. E. F. Moulton of Ohio; Civil Service Reform, Mrs. Imogen B. Oakley of Pennsylvania; Advisory Committee on Civil Service Reform, Miss L. S. W. Perkins of Massachusetts; Conservation, Mrs. Emmons Crocker of Massachusetts; Education, Miss Laura D. Gill of Massachusetts; Household Economics, Mrs. Olaf N. Guldlin of Indiana;



#### DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN, 1910-1912

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Miss Laura Drake Gill      | 7. Mrs. Lawrence Maxwell     |
| 2. Mrs. Frances Squire Potter | 8. Mrs. Emmons Crocker       |
| 3. Mrs. O. N. Guldlin         | 9. Mrs. S. S. Crockett       |
| 4. Mrs. Imogen B. Oakley      | 10. Mrs. O. Shepard Barnum   |
| 5. Mrs. Edwin F. Moulton      | 11. Mrs. George Zimmerman    |
| 6. Mrs. H. M. Bushnell        | 12. Mrs. Everett W. Pattison |
| 13. Miss Helen Varick Boswell |                              |





Industrial and Social Conditions, Miss Helen Varick Boswell of New York; Legislation, Mrs. H. M. Bushnell of Nebraska; Literature and Library Extension, Mrs. Frances Squire Potter of Illinois; Music, Mrs. Lawrence Maxwell of Ohio; Public Health, Mrs. S. S. Crockett of Tennessee; Advisory Committee on Public Health, Dr. Frances Lewis Bishop of Missouri.

At about this time several changes had occurred in the list of Honorary Vice Presidents. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe of Massachusetts, Mrs. Rebekah Spring of California, Mrs. Eliza Kirtley Royle of Utah and Mrs. Constance Fount Le Roy Runcie of Missouri had died, and the number of Honorary Vice Presidents was thus reduced to five including the two recently elected ones: Mrs. Charlotte B. Wilbour of New York and Miss Margaret J. Evans of Minnesota.

The committees commenced active work and circulars were sent out by the various committees with the result that interest among the clubs was greatly stimulated, especially among those devoted to the pursuit of Education, Public Health and Civics. The Civics Committee met with a great loss in the death of its chairman, Mrs. Edwin F. Moulton, who was a woman of unusual ability and rare insight into the needs of local clubs and their value to the communities as civic factors. It would be difficult to find a woman more devoted to the cause which she espoused, or more willing to spend herself in civic service.

Fortunately, the vice chairman of the committee was a woman also of great ability, and the work of the committee has gone straight forward, under the leadership of Mrs. George Zimmerman of Ohio, along the same high paths marked out by Mrs. Moulton. Ex-



cellent circulars have been sent out and a vast amount of personal work has been carried on.

Following the Council meeting which was held at Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1911, an excellent civic circular was prepared by Mrs. William D. Crocker of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and published by Mrs. L. L. Blankenburg, Second Vice President of the General Federation. This circular was exceptionally valuable in that it not only urged civic cleanliness and beauty, but proceeded to give actual directions for securing these results. This circular was distributed by the Bureau of Information and was found to be a leaflet of the greatest practical value.

The Department of Education, under the leadership of Miss Gill, sent out broadcast pamphlets which contained reports of the address of Mr. William H. Allen of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research. The address was full of helpful suggestions, reflections and directions, and might well be used as a manual of instruction by every clubwoman in America.\*

In the middle of the biennial period a call to Miss Gill from one of the higher institutions of learning for women deprived the Department of Education of her valuable services, except as a member of the Advisory Committee. Her place as chairman was ably filled by Mrs. O. Shepard Barnum of California. A notable feature of this committee during the period of 1910-1912 was the effort put forth to have regular courses in social hygiene established in all normal and teachers' training schools.

During the first year of the Department of Civil Service Reform, Miss Anna L. Clark of Missouri,

\*See Part IV, Doc. XIII.

vice chairman of the Department, conducted the work in the absence of Mrs. Oakley, who spent that year abroad and returned in 1911 to take up active service again. The work continued along the lines of education and encouragement for the workers of the various state federations.

The Household Economics Department was active in its continued effort to lift the home to the same scientific plane that pervades every other business enterprise. Study outlines, reading matter, and personal correspondence sent out by the committee members and by the chairman directed and stimulated interest everywhere.

The Departments of Literature and Library Extension were very active during this period. Study outlines were prepared with great care upon: Old Testament Literature; New Testament Literature; The Ancient and Modern Drama; and the Labor Problem (Including Immigration).

The especial attention of clubwomen was called to the following recommendation, which had its origin in the Literature Committee of Ohio, but received the full indorsement of the General Federation Department.

“The committee recommends the Bible as literature worthy of first consideration, and urges that every club, belonging to the Federation, devote at least one entire day's session to the discussion of this subject, taking it up in individual papers or in the lecture form. The loss of the Bible as a record of experience to the youth of America may become a serious disaster.”

Another excellent step taken by this department was its affiliation with The Drama League of America



and the indorsement of such coöperation by the General Federation Council.

The Library Extension work was in the hands of one of the best trained library workers in the General Federation, Miss Lutie E. Stearns of Wisconsin, whose correspondence testified to the value of her work and the appreciation of the clubwomen for the advice received in time of need.

The Department of Industrial and Social Conditions continued to push the work of raising the living standard of wage earners and urged that it be done,

*First*, By distributing literature regarding social and economic conditions.

*Second*, By noonday clubs in factories and shops.

*Third*, By securing the appointment of women assistants for Commissioners of Labor, and women factory inspectors.

Other work done by this Department was not only to secure welfare conditions, but for fire drills to be introduced in all places where people are crowded together. Concerted and coöperative action is also being obtained from women who feel that the industrial problem, the housing, the wages, the compensation for accidents, the protection in dangerous occupations, the need of recreation, are vital questions that demand serious and sustained study and action. Tabulated conditions of child labor in various States have been compiled by the Department, and much valuable assistance and data is furnished to clubwomen interested in social service.

The new Music Department proved itself early in the biennial period to be active and alert. The treasury of the Local Biennial Board at Cincinnati had turned

over its surplus fund, amounting to fifty dollars, to the chairman of this department, Mrs. Lawrence Maxwell of Ohio, and the Citizens' Entertainment Committee of Cincinnati, having a surplus of two hundred dollars, contributed that amount for some special work which the Music Department might wish to carry on. Recommendations from this first Department of Music were for the cultivation of the speaking voice, for prize competition for original compositions, and for a systematic study of music, for which purpose the study outlines of Mrs. F. S. Wardwell of Connecticut were heartily indorsed.

The Department on Art continued its active propaganda for the study of art and the maintenance, wherever possible, of an art reading room. Plans were formulated whereby state chairmen of art were able, wherever they would map out a route of club towns in their respective states, to secure the loan of traveling art galleries during the season of 1911-1912. The chairman of the Department, who is also a Vice President of the American Federation of Arts, was invited to address that organization upon the subject "Coöperation with Women's Clubs."

At the Memphis Council the following resolution was presented and adopted:

*Resolved*, That the clubwomen of the General Federation here assembled in council do indorse the efforts of the special committee of the American Federation of Arts to bring about the teaching of Art History in all American colleges.

The Department on Conservation issued a number of excellent circulars. One deserving especial notice had its bearing upon the wearing of bird plumage.



Conservation of the metal and mineral resources of the country, the conservative employment of water power and the possibilities of the storage battery as a means of utilizing wind power, were among the many interesting and vital matters urged by this Department under the leadership of Mrs. Emmons Crocker of Massachusetts. Subcommittees had been formed for the better execution of the plans of the Department, and the work in the interest of forestry was carried on by Mrs. Lovell White of California; that of waterways by Mrs. John Dallas Wilkinson of Louisiana; while the so-called Bird Member of the Department was Mrs. Francis B. Hornbrooke of Massachusetts.

During the year just following the Cincinnati Biennial, the Conservation Department was represented at two great congresses; one, the Conservation Congress at St. Paul, Minnesota, and the other, the National Irrigation Congress at Pueblo, Colorado.

No department of the General Federation was more active or far-reaching than the Public Health Department during the 1910-1912 period. The Department found that so many interests were centered in this Department that it was advisable to divide the committee; and the work for Food Sanitation was placed under the direction of Mrs. Overton G. Ellis of Washington; that of School Hygiene, Mrs. W. N. Hutt of North Carolina; that of Tuberculosis, Mrs. Prudence S. Dresser of Tennessee; and Social Hygiene, Dr. Yarros of Hull House, Chicago, Illinois. Each of these chairmen had a committee of able workers to assist in their especial line of health work. The state seals, at the request of the Health Chairman, were removed from that Department and became an inde-

pendent committee. This work was continued in the care of Mrs. Rufus Williams of Massachusetts but, owing to personal reasons, Mrs. Williams later resigned, and a new chairman will not be appointed until the eleventh Biennial.

The Public Health Department issued several very valuable circulars which were welcomed by eager clubwomen all over the country. The first of these circulars was a pamphlet which set forth in a clear and masterly manner the purpose of the work and the plan of campaign as outlined by each of the subcommittee chairmen. The whole was prefaced by a foreword from the chairman of the Department and closed with a full page of helpful suggestions and requests.

The subcommittee on Tuberculosis, after a statement to the effect that the crusade for the prevention and extermination of tuberculosis was the capstone of the entire arch of preventable, infectious filth diseases, and its control the mobilization of all social forces, public and private, official and voluntary, proceeded to urge upon the clubwomen the necessity for organization in all communities, the imperative need of the best legislative control, the advisability of securing and disseminating information, and the value of a broad and far-reaching campaign of education.

The purpose of the subcommittee on School Hygiene was set forth in the following words:

This division of the health department hopes to induce clubs to appoint a committee whose interest shall be the promotion of the health of children, and suggests to such committees:

1. That they work wherever possible with those already doing health work, consulting with state and local officials and coöperating with club and community workers.



2. That it is well to concentrate on one thing at a time, before passing on to another phase of the work.

3. That work be undertaken only after investigation, deliberation and consultation, and with energy and determination to accomplish results.

Among the special subjects urged for consideration were Medical Inspection, Outdoor Schools, Personal Hygiene, Dental Inspection and Oral Hygiene.

The Food Sanitation subcommittee continued to arouse the clubwomen to a realization of the fact that with women lies the power to secure clean milk, to compel bakers and provision dealers to protect their foods and to force meat inspectors to obey the interstate laws.

The subcommittee on Social Hygiene, entering a new and unworked field, deserves marked attention. The first avowal of its purpose and plan of campaign appeared over the signature of its chairman in this comprehensive circular. Its full text is as follows:

#### PURPOSE

The social hygiene campaign of education is for the purpose of restricting the spread of social diseases among the innocent, especially women and children, and incidentally to raise the standard of clean, wholesome living for all the people. It gives information as to the disasters, remote and immediate, entailed by these diseases, as well as their prevention. The great obstacle to prevention is ignorance.

#### PREVENTION

Adults can be reached best by lectures and pamphlets treating honestly and frankly with the present state of affairs. Parents, in addition, must be urged and prepared to instruct their children early enough

to save them from the possibility of infection. The only fundamental preventative of the spread of this disease is proper knowledge and sexual purity. The education of the children is most urgent.

The committee will endeavor to issue a list of books and pamphlets dealing with the medical as well as the moral side of the subject.

#### PLAN OF CAMPAIGN

The Health Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs hopes each club in the Federation will appoint a Social Hygiene Committee, whose duty it shall be:

(a) To have a series of conferences or a study class in which they shall endeavor to gain a knowledge of the physical and moral aspects of the question, in order to place a proper value on efforts in this field.

(b) To provide proper lectures on the subject for their own club as well as for other associations.

(c) If there is a social hygiene society in that place, to coöperate with it as far as possible, and to engage the aid of the local medical association in providing lecturers and lectures.

(d) Endeavor to reach school teachers collectively, and interest the school authorities in the proper education of the children in their classes on these important subjects, which are so vital to their future happiness.

(e) To report to the Health Department of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at the end of the year in the work done and on the success of schemes for school instruction.

DR. RACHELLE S. YARROS, Chairman,  
Hull House, Chicago, Illinois.

The result of the work of this subcommittee has been far beyond the expectation of even the most hopeful; state federations, individual clubs, and club-



women have recognized the call to service, and a widespread and serious interest has manifested itself in study classes, carefully selected lectures, social hygiene campaigns and general educational work for the proper appreciation of the need of united effort on the part of all women to get out from the cover of false delicacy subjects which have hitherto been tabooed, with the result that the very foundations of modern society are being undermined.

To further supplement the work of the Public Health Department other circulars were issued from time to time. Here again the value of this printed matter, placed in the hands of the various clubwomen, cannot be overestimated. The worker who wished to introduce into her club the subject of social hygiene found in these circulars suggestions, answers to suppositional questions which might arise, directions by which this delicate subject might be handled in a wise and helpful manner; the tuberculosis section urged the abolishment of the common drinking cup, with a long list of cities and states where action had been secured, references, suggestions, addresses of manufacturers and much other helpful material; a second section under the tuberculosis subcommittee treated of the subject of ventilation in all places where people congregate; a section prepared by the general chairman, Mrs. Crockett, gives much information of inestimable value, including the best method to be used in coöperating with the press, addresses of kindred societies, and much more, not one line of which is wasted and every word of which teems with vital interest.

Another feature of the work of this remarkably active Department was the issuance of selected topics

for monthly health campaign and club programs. These circulars proved not alone the useful and helpful ally of the subworker, but attracted numerous social workers outside of the membership of the General Federation, and many words of commendation were received.

The *General Federation Bulletin* contained articles from the pens of the various members of this, as of other Departments, and at the Memphis Council the following recommendations were offered for consideration :

*First*, that the General Federation Council seek to promulgate through the presidents of state federations here assembled, the doctrine of the unholiness of the traffic in human life, which is carried on by the advertisement and sale of the so-called "consumption cures" (and other remedies the secret of whose composition is kept hidden in the bosom of those whose purses are filled by the sale thereof).

*Second*, That the presidents of state federations should recommend to the chairmen of the standing committees that they form a coöperative program so that their work will dovetail and avoid friction.

*Third*, That workers in the field of social service get in touch with their national prototypes, giving and taking advice that will contribute to an orderly social program for the whole United States.

#### PLANNING AN ENDOWMENT FUND

The Council was held at Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1911, and while the attendance was smaller than was desired, the excellence of the program and the interest manifested by all present made ample atonement. Among the interesting features of this Council



was the presentation of the plan of the Endowment Fund Committee. The plan was presented by the Field Chairman, Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker of Texas, a most valuable woman for the position, since she has ever had at heart a knowledge and appreciation of the real value of the club movement and the true meaning of the Federation. Her plan was as follows:

“It seems to me, the first thing that is necessary for us to fit ourselves for the great work we have undertaken, is to convince ourselves in a twofold sense, that a \$100,000 endowment is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs.

“Intellectual conviction must come first, and this is by no means difficult. The income of our organization is about \$7500 per year. Three Board meetings must be held biennially. When one reflects that the Board members are scattered from California to Massachusetts and from North Dakota to South Carolina, it is not hard to realize that every coming together must cost approximately \$1000. The Bureau of Information, that has accomplished so much good, takes perhaps \$2000, and may I remark parenthetically that it is a sad pity an institution so valuable should, on account of limited funds, be so poorly housed, and so simply equipped. It is remarkable what Mrs. Wood has accomplished under her handicaps. Our great standing committees have an appropriation of only \$100 a year. Do you realize that the chairmen of these committees not only give their services, but also pay their expenses even to Council and Biennial meetings? Should our Federation not blush to allow this, and also to permit its President to pay from her own purse necessary expenses on various Federation trips? Our presidents certainly give enough when they for two or four years sacrifice their time, their strength, their talents in our service. I feel it is a waste of time to discuss further with you that need of money.



MRS. PERCY V. PENNYBACKER  
(Chairman of Endowment Fund Committee)





"You know each of our committees should have larger appropriations. You are fully convinced that in order to have a suitable official organ we must be able to give financial aid to the paper that undertakes to disseminate broadcast our plans and ideas. Some may suggest, why not increase the dues? Those of us who have seen this question debated in conventions are aware that this step is not practicable. The efficient and dignified method is to raise a suitable endowment. Other organizations among both men and women have done this. 'What man hath done man can do.'

"However, it is not enough for us to convince ourselves intellectually; we must also be emotionally convinced, and may I add, we must be able emotionally to convince others? People seldom open their purses from intellectual conviction. Those great denominations, the Methodists and Baptists, who are the princes of money raisers, understand the subtle power of appealing to the emotions. We will have no difficulty here. You and I can take each separate department in the Federation work and find in its experience an actual story that will touch the heart of every woman in our organization. Do you remember when a certain club in a little village encouraged by the art work of the Federation placed a beautiful copy of the Sistine Madonna over the teacher's desk in the first grade in the village school? On one occasion the teacher, talking with the children over the pictures they loved, asked a naughty little fellow, who had caused her many unhappy hours: 'Robert, which picture do you like best?' Unhesitatingly he pointed to Raphael's masterpiece. 'And why,' continued the teacher, 'do you like that best?' 'Oh, I don't know, it is just "kinder" the way it makes me feel.' 'And how does it make you feel?' 'Well, somehow it makes me feel like I want to be good to my mother.'

"Ah friends, if a picture has this power over a wayward son of the people, what might we not accomplish if we had money enough, through our Art Committee,



to place these pictures, even for a few weeks at a time, in the schools that need them?

"When I think of the Civil Service Committee, I see a great procession of children, wan, pale, or sorely afflicted. They stretch out their pleading hands to us, and say, 'Come, ye mothers, ye whose own children are tenderly cared for, come and deliver us from the state institutions, where politics and not efficiency, dictate who are to be in charge over us.'

"Some may say that this takes a tremendous amount of work. Yes, it will, but will the result not pay us? And moreover is our honor not at stake? The eyes of our country will be turned upon us. We have spoken much of our loyalty and of our willingness to sacrifice. Shall we not emulate the example of those brave women of the missionary organizations, who, with a triumphal march of generosity, swept across the country and raised an amount that will be instrumental in doing boundless good. It is, friends, a glorious privilege that we have, and you and I are sure that the women of our country, and the women of our Federation, will not be lacking in this hour of need."

This plea did not fall upon empty ears. The knowledge of the growing needs of the General Federation, the tremendous strain which the work brings to President and chairmen, the desire to make the work of vital importance to every community — all combine to arouse the clubwomen to an appreciation of the need of an endowment fund. During the later biennial periods, the position of President had been carried on at an expense of time, money and strength which the average clubwoman could ill afford. It is an open secret that, during the term of office of the present President, she has visited every state federation, save four, including the District of Columbia and the Canal Zone, covering 70,000 miles and requiring a

great expenditure of money. This expense has been borne by Mrs. Moore herself, as it was by Mrs. Decker, since only in a very minute minority of cases have the states offered to pay anything toward the expenses. Every fair-minded clubwoman realizes that there is a great injustice in an organization of the size of the General Federation of Women's Clubs being forced to consider, in the selection of its President, not alone ability and presence, but also the size of her bank account; and already the members are bestirring themselves to remedy this condition.

The Board of Directors, acting under the orders of the Cincinnati Biennial, early in the summer of 1910 appointed a committee on the General Federation History to prepare and submit to the Board some feasible plan for the work. The committee appointed was: Mrs. C. P. Barnes of Kentucky, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford of Pennsylvania, Mrs. J. L. Washburn of Minnesota, Miss Helen M. Winslow of Massachusetts, and Mrs. Mary I. Wood of New Hampshire, chairman. In authorizing the publication of a General Federation History to cover the twenty-two years of its existence, the Cincinnati Biennial had instructed the Board of Directors to use as far as possible the data accumulated by Mrs. Jennie C. Croly in the preparation of the volume entitled "The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America."

In accordance with these directions, the permission of the publisher and the heirs of Mrs. Croly was secured; and, in so far as was feasible and consistent, reference was made to Mrs. Croly's book and much valuable assistance was obtained therefrom.

The History Committee submitted plans which were



accepted by the Board; Mrs. Wood was appointed editor; and all copy was submitted to the Executive Committee for their approval and indorsement.

#### THINGS WORTH WHILE

Since the written history of the General Federation is a history of biennials largely, and the most important work of the General Federation, as of the state federation and of the individual club, must of necessity be impossible to record, since it is accomplished in that subtle, far-reaching, all-important, but often intangible method known as the education of public opinion, it is obvious even to him who runs that no adequate history can ever be published. How great the influence has been of those presentations, at the women's clubs, of some vital subjects touching the civic, social and moral life of the community, carried out of the club room to the various homes of the members, there to be discussed by the husbands, fathers and children, and thence into the outside world again to become the subject of discussion in other places where people in public or private meet and exchange thoughts upon the affairs of the day, — how great this influence has been and still is can never be known, but it is safe to say that it is playing a great part in the world of thought to-day. It is having its unconscious influence, — not alone upon entire communities, but upon the home life of its members, forming common meeting grounds for father, mother and children, and cementing and elevating the interest and sympathy of the entire family in things that are "worth while."

Any history attempted will be sketchy, fragmentary



# HISTORY COMMITTEE

1. Miss Helen M. Winslow
2. Mrs. C. P. Barnes
3. Mrs. Mary I. Wood
4. Mrs. J. L. Washburn
5. Mrs. Joseph P. Mumford





and unsatisfactory, since it is impossible to convey in lines of cold type this living, vital, civilizing influence of a great body of women working together, not to rear a monument of their own glory, nor to blaze a trail in new and unknown fields, but to help, in co-operation with the forces already organized, as well as by their own combined effort, the work of humanity in upbuilding a civilization.

From the small days of the literary club, organized by a few sympathetic and kindred spirits, whose aim was self-culture and whose membership was exclusive and carefully selected, to the great days of the modern woman's club, whose watch word is service and whose usefulness is bounded only by the limit of human experiences, is a long stride. In those early days when the finest woman's club closed its doors upon the newspaper reporters, denied membership to those whose paths lay outside of the charmed circle, and listened to a miscellaneous program in which the wonders of Dante's *Inferno* vied with the ethics of Plato and Aristotle, and poems and encyclopedic excerpts held the members enthralled, there was small promise of the day when a broad, inclusive club might number one thousand members and the club interest encompass all the experiences of the human family. To contrast the work of a club in those early days with one of the present day gives a slight insight into the great advance which the past fifty years has seen and known.

The club movement of to-day as fostered and led by the General Federation is a vast social and civic movement, the influence of which is but imperfectly understood even by many of the women of whom it is composed. The last directory of the General Federation



of Women's Clubs shows a membership, direct, indirect and allied, of more than one million women. To tell of the work of a single woman or a single club or a single federation might serve to illustrate the service which this great body of women is attempting, but to hope to even imperfectly describe the service which this vast organization of women working together has accomplished would be as difficult as to attempt the history of civilization itself during the past twenty-five years.

It might be possible to enumerate the hundreds upon hundreds of free libraries established, the thousands upon thousands of dollars spent in parks and playgrounds, the kindergartens established, the loan scholarships secured and the vacation and manual training schools opened up, but the passion for civic righteousness which has invaded thousands of homes in this country, the gospel of service regenerated by the awakened interest and influence of thousands of mothers, the spirit of sympathy and understanding between those who rest and those who toil, the union of forces which shall bring about a new heaven and a new earth, — this it is that *is* the General Federation, not alone acts and accomplishments, but spirit and soul, a Renaissance in very truth, a new birth into a new world of enlarged opportunities for service.

No rural community too small, no municipality too large, but that the woman's club finds therein a field for usefulness. From the vast philanthropic work of a club like the Woman's Club of Denver, Colorado, with its sick visiting committee distributing food, clothing and reading matter to the shut-ins, its jail committee, its free baths and free employment bureau, its

loan fund committee (for the benefit of needy people), its League House Library, its free dispensary, its playground committee, its sewing school and day nursery, its Home and Education Department, and all doing splendid active service, — expending many thousand dollars each year and standing as a great social and civic power in the city of Denver, — from such a club to the small rural club where the service is confined to a weekly meeting of the mothers and a monthly lecture course, whose free talent is gathered from near-by towns and state and General Federation officers, is a long stride; but each, according to its ability, opportunity and locality, is doing its part for the coming of a kingdom not made with hands.

The Chicago club of one thousand members, whose study courses include Art, Education, Home, Literature, Philanthropy, Reform and Science, touching every human interest under these general titles, and whose practical work has included the establishment of a School Social Center, playgrounds, the opening of kindergartens, vacation schools, the open door, the abolishment of the smoke nuisance on the school buildings, the fostering of parents' and teachers' associations, vigorous attacks upon the white slave traffic, and innumerable other examples of service, and the splendid industry of the Mothers and Daughters Club of Plainfield, New Hampshire, where in a small rural community the wives and daughters of the farmers own a club house, meet and discuss affairs of the day, both literary and social, and at the same time carry on a useful industry, making rugs, curtains, coverlids, and tablespreads, such as their grandmothers fashioned in earlier days — these are both examples of the fine



civilizing and helpful spirit of the club movement. If space could be taken, examples could be given of numberless forms of artistic, civic and social service rendered by individual clubs and federations — such as ten thousand dollars expended by a single Western club in schoolroom decoration; an avenue of five hundred trees planted in a barren town in the new Southwest; three hundred thousand books in traveling libraries sent out by clubwomen to homes of the lonely, the ignorant, the isolated — books to help, to instruct and to cheer; the saving of the Palisades of the Hudson River; the establishing of the Mesa Verde National Park; the charity organizations, district nursing associations, medical inspection in schools, lunch rooms and noonday rests for women; these and thousands of other instances press forward instantly to the mind of the man or woman who knows whereof he speaks. No one who is informed hesitates for a single moment when asked the crucial question, Is it worth while? to answer, Yes. If educational work is worth while; if juvenile courts are worth while; if clean as well as pure foods are worth while; if a more scientific knowledge and practice of domestic science is worth while; if better legislation for women and children is worth while; if organized effort to benefit the poor, the needy, those who have faltered by the wayside, is worth while; if higher and better standards of morality are worth while, — if a better understanding of the fullness of life, with its responsibilities and privileges, is worth while, — if these things are worth while, then most emphatically the General Federation of Women's Clubs is of value, for along all these and many other lines are women working together for the upbuilding

of a kingdom on earth in which each shall serve her fellow creatures and all shall work together for the good of the whole.

The greatest value of the club movement is still to be touched upon. Far greater than any other has been the influence of the club upon woman herself. She has become a better home maker, because the domestic science work of the federated clubs has given her a new understanding of the beauty of a well-ordered home, where the art of housekeeping includes a knowledge of food values, chemistry, sanitation and harmony. She has become a better mother, because she has come to know other mothers; she has studied child life in its many phases; she has come in touch with the great questions of the world which her children must soon face and she is able to intelligently guide them into paths of greater safety. No greater libel can be cast than the implication that club work detracts from the home. On the contrary, the fine clubwomen of the country do not figure in the divorce court, and the home life of the clubwoman is, almost without exception, harmonious, well-ordered and happy.

Club work has made woman broader in her sympathies, as well as in her understanding. It has taught her to be tolerant of the views of those who differ with her. It has given her interests beyond the petty gossip of her neighbors and friends. It has buried personal spites and jealousies. Perhaps, best of all, it has united women of all classes and creeds, it has formed a massive chain of earnest, active women, a chain which stretches from ocean to ocean in this great republic, a chain which binds American womanhood into a vast army of workers for the benefit of humanity.



Granted that all this is true, has the General Federation reached perfection? Has it gained the heights upon which the eyes of those pioneer women of '89 gazed in prophetic vision? Has the movement no weak places? Are there no weak links in the great chain? Are the leaders resting content? These are some of the questions still asked by the skeptical, and herein lies the problem of the club worker.

Catching a glimpse of the latent force of this great body of women; seeing the eagerness for service manifested everywhere throughout the membership; recognizing the functional power of womanhood; realizing that, under proper direction, this great organization of approximately one million women might become a force for civic righteousness unequaled in the history of our country, — the leaders of the General Federation are striving to secure a foundation which shall enable them to so train and direct this power that no energy or vital force shall be lost. Secure in the knowledge that the weak places come not from vicious or pernicious motives or influences, but rather from the lack of training and organization, the leaders of the club movement are confident that these difficulties may be overcome. Knowing how young the organization is, and looking at the really great results of its short existence, the thoughtful women of the Federation take heart anew even in the face of discouragement. And discouragements arise even with so stalwart and hopeful an organization. Probably the greatest obstacle in the work of the General Federation at present is the lack of funds, the dues being kept at the minimum owing to the fact that it is of the utmost importance that all women may belong equally, that the

wife of the farmer and the wife of the millionaire may each contribute her quota without distinction of class. But in the face of this, which seems at times an almost unsurmountable obstacle to the full measure of their aspirations, the leaders of the General Federation of Women's Clubs rest secure in the hope that the near future will open up a way by which this too may be overcome. There can be no question of the future to a band of workers, either great or small, whose sole ambition is to serve their fellow men. Two thousand years ago there was a promise made to those who should serve humanity unselfishly. With a sure knowledge that the fundamental principle of the Woman's Club Movement is Service, the leaders work on in the unshaken conviction that the time will come when each and every individual member will have at heart the real meaning of the movement, when trained leadership may be provided for all departments of work and the forces of the General Federation of Women's Clubs may become, as prophesied by Mrs. Decker, "a mighty factor in the civilization of the century, if wielded as a whole, an army of builders ready, alert, systematic, not only a potent force in this generation, but transmitting to the next a vigor and strength which has never been given by any race of women to their inheritors."



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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### ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION — SAN FRANCISCO

It has been decided to hold the Eleventh Biennial Convention in the great city of the Pacific Coast from June 25 to July 5 inclusive.

Impressive programs have been arranged and the Local Board has planned many social features.

## PART III

### FEDERATION IDEALS





## FEDERATION IDEALS

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### WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE FEDERATION ?

THE question most frequently asked of the leaders of the General Federation is: What is the ultimate purpose of the General Federation of Women's Clubs? This is a most natural question, since in the great majority of cases, an organization exists for some definite end, some avowed object which must be accomplished before the dissolution of the organization can be countenanced. What, then, is the ultimate purpose of the General Federation of Women's Clubs? What must be accomplished by this body of workers before the time shall arrive when the organization shall become unnecessary and may be allowed to dissolve and pass into history? This question, asked so often by those who are not in close touch with the Federation, and sometimes even by those who should be able to give answer to their own query, is a proper one and deserves more than passing attention.

Obviously there should be some excellent reason for the banding together of more than a million thoughtful people; some reason for the nation-wide activity of America's best women; some reason for the international relation which exists with similar organizations in other countries; some reason for the unselfish devotion of time, strength and money which the leaders of



this movement are each year giving to the organization whose interests they serve.

During the last half of the nineteenth and the first years of the twentieth century civilization has been moving ahead at a tremendous rate. A complete social and economic readjustment is being brought about. Vast fortunes have been accumulated and great trusts have been formed. The power of the individual, both for good and evil, has been greatly enhanced. The great manufacturing and business centers have called from village and farm, and a new life in the environs of the cities has sprung up. Truly, old things have passed away and new and untried experiences are confronting the human family on all sides.

It was imperative that in the path of such a sweeping tide there should have been much that was left behind, much that was cast aside, much that was ruthlessly trampled under foot.

The fact has been noted that such advance has been largely due to the inventive, intrepid and courageous functions of man. Probably no one factor has been of such great import as the invention and employment of machinery of the so-called labor-saving type. With the increasing use of machinery there has been a growing tendency toward concentrated power and a consequent gathering together of people into large communities. In this onward sweep of man-conceived and man-executed and man-driven improvements, rural communities have been left behind, homes have been invaded, and little children have been robbed of their rights to childhood. That the advance has been good is denied by no one, but it is also an undeniable fact that never in the history of the world has there been a

time when there has been so great a need for the full use of the natural functions of woman to supplement and complement the functions of man as now.

The formation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs was but a natural response to the call of an advancing civilization, a manifestation of evolution which it is impossible to overlook or to deny. The exercise of the functions of man has brought about a marvelous and almost incredible improvement in the conditions which surround the race, but this improvement has been at the expense of lesser things and it is in the care and interest of these lesser things, that the true function of woman as conserver and preserver is invaluable.

#### THE PATH OF EVOLUTION

The path of evolution has ever been a bloody one, strewn with the maimed and broken obstacles which have been met and overcome. The history of the century just passed has offered no exception to this inexorable rule; and students of evolution will not fail to recognize in the growth and development of the club activities an effort on the part of nature to bind up the wounded, to restore the fallen and to so adjust the activities of woman that they shall serve to correct the defects of man's activities and to supplement his work toward higher and better conditions of life.

In the great, mad rush for commercial and financial gain in this new country of ours — many of the gentler arts were overlooked. In the fight for shelter and food which the pioneers of America were forced to wage, there seemed to be little or no time for the cultivation of literature, art and music. As the battle advanced



and former luxuries became necessities, this lack began to be recognized, and almost unconsciously there was put forward an effort to correct this deficiency. One of the clearest manifestations of this effort was the woman's club of early days, the "middle-aged woman's university" of the nineteenth century.

For the women of the larger cities and towns there soon appeared facilities for the improvement along these lines, but for the woman of the rural community, the woman of the mountain district, and the woman of the frontier opportunities were scarce; and the General Federation, with its fostering care for every woman of the times, straightway found need for united action in order that the women whose happy location made easy knowledge and improvement might contribute to those less favorably situated. This work has been carried on easily and naturally, without condescension or patronage, reaching out to the most remote district or farmhouse, sending books, study outlines, traveling galleries and, better than all else, words of encouragement and suggestion. Surely this answer may be made to the incredulous. Just so long as there exists in this broad land one woman who asks, unanswered, for the door to be opened into the field of literature, there will be reason for the General Federation of Women's Clubs and its active committees.

In the great cities and in many of the active towns there are museums of art and galleries of painting, but there are still women who do not find the large city or town easy of access, there are schools where the walls are still unhung with pictures and the school library is encompassed by the well-worn textbooks necessary for the meager curriculum. In these towns

and villages and hill districts there is great need of revivifying influence, the hanging of a few really good pictures, the addition of some auxiliary reading matter and the occasional exhibit of real works of art. A letter and a few postage stamps are the only requirements; and the loan of a study outline, a set of pictures, or a traveling library opens up to the small community some of the blessings of the civilization which but now had threatened to pass them by. It is to supply the needs, to answer the cry, to prove the instrument by which the great community joins hands with the small, that the General Federation lives.

In the changes which an advancing civilization has wrought, no work has been more commendable than the effort to properly care for those who, some for one reason and some for another, are unequal to the race and have become burdens upon the strong and well. In the eagerness to properly house these unfortunates, at the time when their care was taken over by the state, it is not altogether a matter of surprise that their custodial care should have been sometimes delegated to those who, in the old days of the spoils system, were named for political reasons. It was inevitable, also, under a system of political appointments which has not yet been wholly outgrown, that tenure of office should sometimes, in fact too often, be determined by good political faith and support, rather than by fitness and devotion to duty. Here and there among men are fine souls, not too busy with the necessities and cares of business life, to realize the terrific wrong which such a condition imposes upon those who are helpless to arouse public opinion in their own defense.

With the General Federation of Women's Clubs, civil



service reform has taken on a new significance; it savors not of politics nor political favor; it is humanity pure and simple; and so long as there is a woman or child who suffers from the ignorance or cruelty of those to whom the state has delegated their care, so long as boys whose misdemeanor has brought them under the corrective and reformatory agencies of the state are crowded in with hardened criminals of mature years, so long as women are subjected to indignities at the hands of those whose chief interest should be to guard the moral and physical welfare of those intrusted to their care, just so long will there be need of and work for this great body of women workers to whom appeals may be sent and by whom public opinion may be aroused and wrongs may be righted.

The time has been when to be born a woman presupposed a knowledge and fitness for the position of housekeeper and home maker; and it is only within recent years that it has become noised abroad that there was a science, no less exact than the science of chemistry or physics, which entered into the composition of food, and the methods of its preparation. Here and there have been women who have essayed to direct the way whereby housekeeping should be elevated from drudgery to dignity. These women have also aimed to show that art entered into the scheme of home making, and that simplicity and usefulness were the ultimate test of home furnishings. They have brought to the attention of housekeepers everywhere the bearing which new inventions and discoveries may have upon home life, and have pointed out the many new and helpful devices by which the modern kitchen becomes a place of magic. The doctrine of enlightened

and ennobled home making is but one feature of the work of the Federation, and this alone would furnish sufficient reason for its existence. This field has but just been entered; and until the women of the land have awakened to the value of a simple, well-ordered and dignified home life, the workers of the General Federation will continue their labors, with a definite knowledge that a work is worth doing which shall give to the people of our country unadulterated foods, clean markets, pure milk and water supplies, together with intelligent, alert and active interest on the part of the home maker.

Probably the most piteous cry which has reached the ears of the mothers of the nation is that which goes up from the little children whose lives are sacrificed to the greed of manufacture. The great blessing which the advent of machinery brought to the people of the nineteenth century has been sadly tempered by the increased demand which it has made for the labor of women and little children. Each day those mouth-pieces of a nation's progress, the newspapers, thrill the blood of the people with the pitiful details of labor disturbances; and the public stand aghast at the manifestations of the wrongs visited upon innocent and guilty alike, due to the helplessness of the laborer on the one hand and oppression by the manufacturer on the other.

To assist in the work of improving the industrial and social conditions among those who toil, to attempt to solve the question of proper housing, to influence and to secure legislation which shall grant to every child the rights of childhood, to insist that laws already secured shall be enforced, — these are among the many



answers which may truthfully be given to him who asks, For what does the Federation exist?

Those who have closely watched the development of the club movement would be almost tempted, when asked the purpose of the Federation, to answer that the General Federation exists for the making of citizens and the training for citizenship.

It is true that the organization as a whole does not indorse the suffrage movement. It is composed of ardent suffragists and strong anti-suffragists, and the only ground taken by the General Federation has been to allow all sides of the question a place upon the program at the last Biennial. But it is generally granted, even by those who await with painful anticipation its advent, that suffrage for women is already sighted in the not too far distant future. If this is true, the women must be ready for it when it comes, so that the country shall not again suffer from the too sudden influx of a large body of citizens who are still unprepared for citizenship.

The club movement, in its early days a literary movement, is fast becoming a great civic force; and the club is very rare indeed to-day in which the subject of civic betterment is not discussed. An examination of the yearbooks of thousands of women's clubs reveals the fact that the women of the country are studying civic conditions everywhere. Civic beauty, civic cleanliness, civic sanitation, civic government, civic welfare, — these are subjects common to the life of every club; where will it be possible to find an equal number of men, who have already the full rights and privileges of suffrage, with whom these subjects are topics for almost daily thought, discussion and study!

When equal suffrage is granted, there will be a vast army of women who have already made a careful study of municipal conditions, of state care of defective, delinquent and dependent classes, of the industrial and social conditions of those who toil, of the relation of consumer and producer, of every phase of child welfare work, of recreation and of employment; and the purpose of the General Federation cannot be truthfully said to have been accomplished until every woman in the land is enlightened and informed upon the great questions which sooner or later will confront them for adjustment.

Just at present there is appearing upon the horizon of the General Federation a task, the magnitude of which is appalling, a task which will try the very sinew and fiber of a great organization in an attempt to even understand it. Out from the dark and secret places of the past a frightful monster has come into partial view, — a monster so horrible that the senses are benumbed and the emotions unstrung in its very presence; a monster whose tentacles have reached to the very foundations of modern society; a monster which claims as its victims the young, the innocent, the trusting and the unwary alike; a monster which invades without discrimination the homes of rich and poor, of high and low, and vents its curse upon succeeding generations: what further reason for existence would a body of organized women need than a combined effort to get before their fellow women a better understanding of their duties and responsibilities as women and mothers in a great protest against traffic in human lives, false delicacy in the instruction of our youth, apathy in moral standards in public and private



life, and a knowledge of the physical as well as the moral dangers which lurk unseen about them.

One great purpose of the General Federation of Women's Clubs is education, the education of themselves first and the education of public opinion immediately after. The wheels of evolution have brought the human race of the twentieth century up to great heights; the inventive, aggressive, and creative functions of the twentieth century man is urging us on, but the price of such rapid advance must be paid, and that the cost may be less terrible, the conserving influence of organized womanhood is needed. Conservation, then, in its best and highest sense is the *raison d'être* of the General Federation of Women's Clubs — conservation of life, of liberty and of happiness; conservation of child life, of womanhood, of civic and national integrity in matters of public and private import; conservation of the best and highest functions of womanhood which shall make her in very truth the conserver of all that is best in our advancing civilization, preserver of all that is good in the civilization of the past and helpmeet in the daily battle of life which is constantly going on about them.

PART IV  
DOCUMENTS





## DOCUMENTS

### I. — SOROSIS ANNIVERSARY, MARCH 18, 1889

#### CLUBS REPRESENTED BY DELEGATES

Woman's National Council, May Wright Sewall.  
New England Wheaton Seminary Club, Mrs. Estelle  
M. H. Merrill.  
New England Woman's Club, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.  
Eothen Club, East Oakland, Cal.  
Woman's Club of San Francisco, Cal., Mrs. S. Solomon.  
Fortnightly Club, Denver, Col., Mrs. E. K. Hallock.  
Cozy Club, Bridgeport, Conn., Mrs. D. W. Thompson.  
New Century, Wilmington, Del., Mrs. Harriet Belt  
Stevens.  
Fortnightly, Chicago, Ill., Mrs. R. Emerson.  
Fortnightly, Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Ellen Mitchell.  
Woman's, Chicago, Ill., Dr. Julia Holmes Smith.  
Jacksonville Sorosis, Jacksonville, Ill., Miss Mary L.  
Rhodes.  
Woman's Reading Club, Greencastle, Ind., Elizabeth  
Ames.  
Katharine Merrill Club, Indianapolis, Ind., Lila M.  
Ketchem.  
Indianapolis Woman's Club, Indianapolis, Ind., Kate  
Rand Winters.  
Monday Club, Lafayette, Ind., Mary W. Smart.  
Woman's Club, Terre Haute, Ind., Mrs. A. W. Waldo.  
Ladies' Literary Club, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Mrs. W. W.  
Walker.  
Tourists' Club, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Miss Albright.  
Ladies' Literary Association, Dubuque, Ia., Mrs.  
Mena Enz.  
Nineteenth Century, Iowa City, Ia., Ellen G. McClain.  
Marshalltown Woman's Club, Marshalltown, Ia.,  
M. E. W. Getz.



- Atlantic Club, Topeka, Kans., Mrs. Ray McClintock.  
Hypatia Club, Wichita, Kans., Mrs. Mary C. Todd.  
Woman's Club, Jamaica, L.I., Mabel M. Smith.  
Woman's Club, New Orleans, La., Katharine Nobles.  
Charity Club, Boston, Mass., Miss Belle Grant Armstrong.  
Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston, Mass., Mrs. Caroline A. Kennard.  
Home Club, East Boston, Mass., Mrs. A. H. Spaulding.  
"Old and New" Club, Malden, Mass., Harriet H. Robinson.  
Melrose Woman's Club, Melrose, Mass., Rebecca L. Hesseltine.  
Social Science Club, Newton, Mass., Lucy Newhall Sawyer.  
Springfield Woman's Club, Springfield, Mass., Mrs. Mary L. Owen.  
Women's Educational Club, West Newton, Mass., Mrs. Electa N. L. Walton.  
Fortnightly Club, Winchester, Mass., Mrs. Mary A. Gregory.  
Woman's Club, Woburn, Mass., Sarah E. Doyle.  
Worcester Woman's Club, Worcester, Mass., Mrs. Edith L. Getchell.  
Intercollegiate Sorosis, Ann Arbor, Mich., Miss Nettie Haire.  
Detroit Woman's Club, Detroit, Mich., Mrs. H. H. Jackson.  
Ladies' Literary Club, Grand Rapids, Mich., Mrs. Enos Putnam.  
Lansing Woman's Club, Lansing, Mich., Matilda M. Howard.  
New Century Club, St. Paul, Minn., Mrs. Driscoll.  
El Mora Ladies' Club, Elizabeth, N.J., Mrs. M. B. Prettyman.  
Woman's Club, Orange, N.J., Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown.  
Monday Afternoon Club, Plainfield, N.J., Elvira E. Kenyon.

Brooklyn Woman's Club, Brooklyn, N.Y., Amelia K. Wing.

Literary Club, Church of the Messiah, Buffalo, N.Y., Harriet A. Townsend.

Woman's Literary Society, Dunkirk, N.Y.

Clio, New York, Mrs. Andrew B. Humphrey.

Industrial Art Club, New York, Mrs. L. B. Gachus.

Sorosis, New York, Miss H. Allen.

Woman's Club, Fargo, N.D., Mrs. Dykeman.

Carlisle Fortnightly Club, Carlisle, Pa.

New Century, Philadelphia, Pa., Mrs. Mary R. Hall.

Alumnæ Association of the Normal School of Philadelphia, Pa., Margaret B. Harvey.

Woman's Club, Pittsburgh, Pa., M. B. Schluederberg.

Ossoli Literary Circle, Knoxville, Tenn., Mrs. L. C. French.

Ladies' Afternoon Club, Janesville, Wis., Mrs. J. P. Haire.

Woman's Club of Wisconsin, Ellen M. H. Peck.

CLUBS REPRESENTED BY LETTER AT SOROSIS ANNI-  
VERSARY, MARCH 18, 1889

Decorah Woman's Club, Iowa.

Saturday Club, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Nantucket Sorosis.

Round Table, Nebraska.

The Manse, Richmond, Virginia.

Woman's Club, Olympia.

II. — CONSTITUTION AS ADOPTED APRIL 24,  
1890

ARTICLE I. *Name.* — This association shall be called The General Federation of Women's Clubs.

ARTICLE II. *Object.* — The object of the General Federation is to bring into communication with each other the various women's clubs throughout the world, in order that they may compare methods of work and become mutually helpful.



ARTICLE III. *Officers and Delegates.* — Section 1. The officers of the General Federation of Women's Clubs shall be a President, a First Vice President, Vice Presidents whose number shall correspond to the number of clubs composing the Federation, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and an Auditor of accounts. These officers shall constitute a Council with power to elect an Advisory Board, which shall transact the business of the Federation and report to the Council, and to the Federation at each biennial meeting. — Section 2. The President, First Vice President, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer and Auditor of accounts shall be elected by ballot, after nomination, from the floor, at the biennial meetings. A majority vote of the officers and delegates present shall constitute an election. The president of each club in membership shall be vice president of the Federation, or a club may elect a vice president from among its members. — Section 3. No member shall hold more than one office at a time. No officer shall be eligible to election to the same office for more than one consecutive term. Each officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the next biennial meeting. No two officers shall be elected from the same state. — Section 4. Each club belonging to the Federation should be represented at the biennial meetings by a delegate who shall be entitled to vote and who shall present to the meeting a written report of club work. — Section 5. All members of clubs which have regularly entered the Federation may be present at any biennial convention and may take part in discussions on all measures brought forward, but shall not introduce motions or vote.

ARTICLE IV. *Condition of Membership.* — Section 1. A club desiring to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs should apply to a member of the Council, and should send to her a copy of its constitution and by-laws, also a copy of its act of incorporation, if incorporated. — Section 2. The member of the

Council to whom application has been made shall present the name and credentials of the club to the Advisory Board. By vote of the Advisory Board a club may be elected an associate member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. — Section 3. A club, in order to be eligible to membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs, must possess the following qualifications: First, a constitution which shall show by its plan of work that no sectarian or political test is required, that its purpose is not primarily philanthropic or technical, but that its chief object is literary, artistic, or scientific culture, while the more broadly human movements may be recognized; second, a record of not less than one year of organized club life.

ARTICLE V. *Meetings and Dues.* — Section 1. The meetings of the General Federation of Women's Clubs shall take place every two years in the month of May, beginning in 1892. The place of meeting shall be decided by the Advisory Board. — Section 2. The biennial dues of each club shall be \$10, payable at the biennial meeting.

ARTICLE VI. *Amendments.* — This constitution may be amended at any biennial meeting of the Federation by a two thirds vote of the members present, provided the proposed amendment shall have been approved by the Advisory Board, and notice of the same appended to the call of the meeting.

#### BY-LAWS

I. — The president of the General Federation shall preside at all its meetings, and shall be ex-officio chairman of the Council and of the Advisory Board, and shall supervise plans for extending, unifying, and rendering efficient the work of the Federation.

The recording and corresponding secretaries and auditor shall perform the duties usually belonging to their respective offices. When so ordered by the Advisory Board, the minutes and papers of each biennial meeting shall be edited and published by a



committee appointed by the Advisory Board, of which the recording secretary shall be the chairman.

All moneys belonging to the General Federation shall be in charge of the treasurer, who shall invest them, subject to the order of the Advisory Board, in some reliable savings bank, and the dues shall be collected by her. The treasurer's accounts shall be audited annually, and an annual report made to the Advisory Board. Also a full report shall be made to the Federation at each biennial meeting.

II. — The Council shall meet at the call of the Advisory Board. Eleven members shall constitute a quorum.

III. — The Advisory Board shall consist of nine members, and shall meet at the call of the president. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

IV. — To secure suitable arrangements for each biennial meeting, a local committee from the place of meeting shall be appointed by the Advisory Board; the committee and the Advisory Board making up the programme and acting in concert for the general interests of the meeting and Federation.

V. — Members of the Advisory Board shall be *ex-officio* members of the biennial meetings and be entitled to vote. Committees appointed at one biennial to report at another shall be regular members of the biennial meeting at which their reports are made.

VI. — The Council or Advisory Board may appoint committees, whose duty it shall be to secure correspondence among local clubs, and do whatever else may be helpful.

VII. — There shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by officers in the service of the Federation may be refunded from the general treasury by order of the Advisory Board.

VIII. — Clubs desirous of uniting with the Federation may be received by vote of the Advisory Board at any of its regular meetings.

IX. — Any State or Territorial Federation including ten clubs in its membership, may, upon application, be recognized as a branch of the General Federation.

Every such branch shall be entitled to two delegates in the biennial convention of the General Federation, but said delegates must be elected from clubs not directly connected with the General Federation.

X. — Rules of order shall be those of Cushing's Manual.

XI. — These by-laws may be amended at any biennial meeting by a majority vote, provided notice of such amendment shall have been by order of the Advisory Board appended to the call of the meeting. Or without such previous notice the by-laws may be amended at any biennial meeting by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN,  
MAY WRIGHT SEWALL,  
MARY E. MUMFORD,  
JULIA S. WARNER,  
HARRIET H. ROBINSON.

### III. — CARD OF INTRODUCTION

G. F. W. C.

Unity in Diversity

To the President of .....  
Introducing .....  
..... of the .....  
Club .....

Please admit her to one of your meetings if convenient, and extend such courtesies as your Club is accustomed to grant.

President of .....



## IV.—MRS. BROWN'S FINAL ADDRESS

Four years of delightful, absorbing, and sometimes anxious work in the office to which you have twice called me, a work involving close relationship with hundreds of thoughtful clubwomen, also a very extensive correspondence, together with a careful and constant observation and reflection, ought to have led me to some conclusions which, if faithfully stated, should be suggestive to all club workers and be especially interesting to those who are to take up the responsibilities that the present Board is about to lay down. I shall confine myself to some of these conclusions, not repeating what other officers and committees are to say for themselves.

The first of these conclusions is that, among the many organizations by and for women that have sprung up in the last half century, none is more far-reaching, potent and helpful than is the literary club movement, centering largely, as it does, in the work and workings of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Its spontaneous origin, its phenomenal growth, the enthusiasm which it inspires in its members, the general interest and commendation which it everywhere commands — in a word its whole short history proves conclusively that there existed a great and growing want in the lives of women which was not met, which no existing agency could meet and that women's literary clubs were adapted to supply. That want was higher and broader social, intellectual and ethical culture. Latent possibilities required development. Women in different positions in life holding different, often opposing, views on many subjects — religious, political and reformatory — needed in some way to have the old bars of separation broken down and themselves to be drawn together in loving sympathy and earnest coöperation. Whatever could do this must be of infinite value to womanhood and to the world. The General Federation has done it, and it has done it by

placing before women a high and noble object of common interest around which they can all rally and work together for a common end — culture as preparatory for every work of life. An organization that can do this as the Federation of Clubs is doing it is second in importance to no other.

Another conclusion which I have reached is that this work, large as it has grown to be, is yet only in its beginnings. We began with about fifty clubs. At our first Biennial we had nearly two hundred. We have now three hundred and fifty directly federated and a hundred more belonging to us in groups. At our next Biennial we shall number five hundred in direct membership and hundreds more in groups, and foreign lands will be largely represented. Instead of fifty thousand women now in our three hundred and sixty clubs there should be, and soon will be, hundreds of thousands of clubwomen in thousands of women's clubs. The possibilities and the needs are boundless.

What can women do in times like these without practical culture and training such as women's clubs give to thousands of earnest workers along all lines of life? More and more of these advantages will be prized and sought, until most women with aspirations for growth and usefulness will become club members. The club is the training school for women's broadening work. Already our clubs are looked to and sought as centers of social and intellectual power from which efficient workers along all lines are sought, and this will be so more and more as the years go on.

And, besides, this club history will not be limited to our own country, but will invade every civilized land, for the principle of life and growth is in it. That was a happy thought in the organization of our General Federation which made its *constitution* and *charter international*. Already we are reaping fruit from this international provision. We have now three foreign countries represented in the Federation, and clubs from several other nations, and these among the fore-



most in the world are in correspondence with a view to joining our body. All this illustrates the greatness and possibilities of our work. It is world-wide and as urgent as it is broad. It must spread and grow.

Another conclusion is that the Federation if it is to reap the ripening harvest must be wisely, faithfully and efficiently conducted. *Established business principles must rule our action.* Mismanagement, inefficiency or serious mistake might wreck our Federation fleet, that now sails so splendidly. Responsibility, hard work, thought, courage, leadership, tact and constant vigilance on the part of officers are the conditions of great and growing success. Nothing good goes of itself. This shows the importance of thoughtful care in the election of officers, and especially in the choice of President, on whom, of necessity, a large share of the labor and the responsibility must devolve.

Another conclusion to which I gladly come relates to the usefulness and efficiency of our *state committees of correspondence*. Our by-laws make their appointment optional; our experience unfolds the many advantages of our system, especially when chairmen of committees have time, heart and skill for the work assigned them.

It has been found that committees on the ground can judge of many matters and do many needful things that the central Board, at a distance, cannot understand and do so well. The services of many of these state chairmen have been invaluable, and all have been faithful and very helpful in our great work. I only suggest that a possible improvement in the election of state chairmen would be to have the clubs of each state collectively, instead of the first federated or largest club, nominate its state chairmen.

Another conclusion is a word of warning at a point where all successful organizations are more or less exposed and relates to a class of persons, in our experience very small, indeed, whose ambition for aggrandizement, or desire for gain of some sort for themselves,

leads them to seek places to which their motives do not entitle them. Persons who do not care to serve the Federation so much as they do to serve themselves by means of it should not have encouragement or position. Our whole work must stand on high moral grounds, or its permanence and power cannot be assured. When the interests of individuals come into competition with those of a great organization, the less must yield to the greater, except where personal rights are concerned.

On the subject of mixed clubs I have come to this conclusion: that, as a rule and for the present, it is better in most cases that women should work by themselves apart from men. If inexperienced beginners, they have less of embarrassment, a greater feeling of responsibility, are less likely to be thrown into the shade and will do more and better work. Doubtless there are clubs into which men may come without injury and to advantage. At some future day, along most lines of active life, men and women will work together, but that time in our federated club movement has not yet arrived. When we shall have shaped and polished our armor as men have theirs, we can enter the conflict of life side by side.

Another conclusion reached is that the *Federation should keep to its legitimate work*, and should not, directly or indirectly, commit itself to any diverting or devisable entanglement through connection with other organizations, however excellent in their own departments they may be. We have one aim, one test of union, which is social and intellectual culture, and this, not as an end in itself, but as a means of reaching such ulterior ends as each club and club-woman has a perfect right to select and pursue. Our clubs are composed of women of all shades of thought and feeling on all subjects working together. This is its charm and source of growth, unity and power.

Now, let some other combination enter in that should even seem to connect the body with something



not contemplated in its constitution, and what would result?

One class might be suited, another would be dissatisfied and the end would be strife and disintegration.

Our Federation, considered in its national and *international character*, is large enough, strong and influential enough, to stand on its own broad foundation and work earnestly, for what the world needs is work more than it needs anything else, except the all-pervasive power of love. Let us keep free from diverting entanglements.

Still another point of importance to be considered is the *place* and *worth* of *state federations*. Upon this question a difference of opinion has arisen. While some have favored state organizations holding direct membership in the General Federation, others have feared that state bodies would tend to draw off interest and membership from the general body, and so, in part, divide our work and induce a feeling of sectionalism and rivalry that would affect unfavorably the broad interest which the Federation is set to promote. The interesting and hopeful fact in connection with these two views is that they are not held by hostile parties, but by women who are equally friendly to the general work, and who would do nothing for local interest which they thought would check the great onward movement.

The difference, if there be any, is one of judgment, and not of aim or principle. This subject is one that has occupied much of thought and correspondence during the past two years, and the conclusion which I seem to have reached is this:

The General Federation has become so large, its meetings are so infrequent and necessarily so remote from most of the clubs, that it cannot secure that full and direct fellowship which clubs need, and which state bodies meeting, say twice a year, would help to supply. If this be so, then let state organizations be formed where the want exists, not as rivals, but as

helpers in the common cause. I would, however, impress upon those engaged in state organizations that they make their constitutions very simple and flexible; and that state bodies and organized groups of clubs should hold direct membership in the general body, as I believe all do that are eligible; and further, that local clubs and state organizations (except very weak ones that cannot afford it) be encouraged to belong, as most of them do, individually to the General Federation.

A prominent clubwoman expressed herself in this way: "If clubs can afford to belong to both state and General Federation, they should do so; but if they cannot afford both, they should, if possible, keep in the center of that mighty current of inspiration and influence that direct membership in the general body alone can secure." With such views and limitations, I believe that state federations may be made greatly helpful, and should have official encouragement. The General Federation has no wish to curtail the freedom of local clubs, but desires them to exercise the largest liberty of thought and action consistent with loyalty to the general movement. Wheels within wheels is the divine order.

Dear sisters of the Federation, we have now wrought together in this great and glorious work through four successive years. The position to which you first called me was unsought. I came to it with fear and trembling. Our organization was experimental. We had to feel our way in the dark; to sail over unknown seas, where perils awaited us. If at first I sometimes seemed to hesitate, as if in uncertainty, it was because I felt that any serious mistake at the beginning might end in shipwreck. I knew it was predicted that the Federation, if it grew as we hoped, and included women of position, character, often of opposing convictions on many important questions and from widely different positions in life, would fall to pieces inside of two years. False prophets were they all, and yet we had to move cautiously.



At the end of four years I am very thankful to have been permitted to put so much of my life into this grand work for woman's elevation, and I am grateful to Almighty God for the success that has crowned our united efforts. The experimental period is over. We are now a great, united, earnest, growing body of intelligent women, thoroughly organized, and working harmoniously in systematic ways for a common end. I doubt if any other organization by men or women of such proportion ever had so harmonious and successful a history in the first four years of its existence, as we have enjoyed. Love, practically and wisely expressed, has ruled our actions, and the spirit of discord has fled from us.

Our future is many times brighter and more assured to-day than it was four years ago.

In our formative period an amount of work of all kinds and of responsibility in all directions has devolved necessarily on your President that her successors will not feel obliged to assume. I wish here to bear testimony that all the general officers of the Federation have stood by me with loving words and helping hands from the beginning until now.

Our state committees and club presidents, indeed, the whole membership of our three hundred and sixty clubs, have been my constant helpers, and encouragement has been my inspiration.

When I came, in the hurried, closing hours of last week, to the preparation of this final address, a great sense of mingled emotions came over me, emotions of thankfulness, of gratitude, of love, of hope, and of responsibility. I felt that the occasion was so sacred that I could not indulge in flights of rhetoric or in glittering generalities, but must confine myself to practical questions of special importance to our great work. I saw and felt that the only right and proper thing for me to say was to say the right and proper thing, even where feeling and inclination would have suppressed utterance. I have spoken what I thought was the

needed word. I have tried, now as always, to do my duty. That my administration has not been faultless goes without saying. My successors have a vantage ground that I did not possess. It was mine, by hard and constant work, to help build up what I hope they will enjoy and extend until the women of this land, and of all lands, shall attain that degree of social, intellectual and moral culture which alone fits them for useful service in all the broadening avocations that are opening before them. As I have committed this work to divine guidance a thousand times, so again I commit it, here and now: may God's blessing be on it and on us all.

Signed, CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN.

#### V.—CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION UNDER LAWS OF NEW JERSEY

This certifies that there exists in the United States of America an association composed of about three hundred clubs having an aggregate membership of about forty thousand individuals from the United States and foreign countries, which said association is known and designated as "The General Federation of Women's Clubs," and has been formed to bring into communication with one another the various women's clubs throughout the world, that they may compare methods of work and become mutually helpful.

Constitutions of clubs applying for membership should show that no sectarian or political test is required, and that while the distinctively humanitarian movements may be recognized, their chief purpose is not philanthropic and technical, but social, literary, artistic, or scientific culture. This further certifies that at a regular meeting of that association held on Friday, the thirteenth day of May, Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-two, the persons whose names are hereto affixed were elected by a majority of votes to the several offices provided for by the constitution of said association. Said officers, elected as aforesaid, do



hereby, in pursuance of an act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled, "An Act to incorporate benevolent and charitable associations, approved April 9, 1875," and a supplement to an act entitled, "An Act to incorporate benevolent and charitable associations, said supplement approved April 6, 1876," certify that the association has assumed and adopted the name of the General Federation of Women's Clubs as their corporate name, and we desire that this, our certificate, be filed and recorded by the Clerk of the County of Essex, and State of New Jersey.

#### OFFICERS

Charlotte Emerson Brown, President.  
 Julia Plato Harvey, Vice President.  
 J. C. Croly, Recording Secretary.  
 Mary V. Temple, Corresponding Secretary.  
 Jane O. Cooper, Treasurer.  
 Harriett H. Robinson, Auditor.

#### DIRECTORS

Josephine Bates	Mary E. Mumford
Mary Rogers	Octavia N. Bates
Fanny Purdy Palmer	Julia Ward Howe
Cordelia I. Sterling	Katherine Nobles
Mary D. Steele	

Recorded and filed December 29, 1893.

(Signed and sealed) J. T. WRIGHTSON, *Clerk.*  
 NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

### VI. BY-LAWS

AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED MAY 30, 1896, AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

#### ARTICLE I

##### OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

SECTION 1. The General Officers of the Federation shall be a President, First Vice President, a Recording

Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Auditor.

SECTION 2. The President of each Federated Club shall be a Vice President of the General Federation and a member of the Council.

SECTION 3. The General Officers of the Federation and nine Directors shall constitute a Board of Directors, who shall transact the business of the Federation, subject to its direction, and make a full report at each Biennial meeting, and to the Council when it convenes. They shall meet at the call of the President. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors, the Presidents of State Federations, the Vice Presidents of the General Federation, and the Chairmen of State Correspondence shall constitute a Council to consider and promote the general interests of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The Council shall meet the day previous and the day following each Biennial, also at the call of the Board of Directors. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 5. The six general officers of the General Federation and nine Directors shall be elected at Biennial meetings by ballot. One delegate from each state, chosen by the delegation of the state, shall form a nominating board to offer a list of officers and directors for election. A majority vote of those present entitled to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

SECTION 6. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no officer shall be eligible to the same general office for more than two terms consecutively. No two members of the Board shall be from the same state. One third of the Board of Directors shall be changed at each Biennial meeting. Each officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the Biennial meeting following that of her election. In case of vacancy, the Board of Directors shall appoint a member to serve until her successor is elected.



SECTION 7. There shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by officers in the Federation may be refunded from the general treasury by order of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 8. Clubs belonging to the General Federation shall be represented as follows: Each federated club shall be entitled to be represented by its President, or her appointee, and by one delegate. Each State Federation shall be entitled to five delegates, one of whom shall be its President or her appointee. Each President and delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Fifty members shall constitute a quorum for executive sessions.

SECTION 9. Members of clubs belonging to the General Federation may be present at Biennial meetings, may take part in discussions upon all measures brought forward, but, unless otherwise entitled, shall not introduce motions or vote.

## ARTICLE II

### MEMBERSHIP

Clubs or State Federations desiring to join the General Federation should make application for membership, accompanied by constitution and by-laws, to the Chairman of State Correspondence for their respective states.

A majority vote of the Directors shall be necessary for an election.

## ARTICLE III

### MEETINGS AND DUES

SECTION 1. The meetings of the General Federation shall take place every two years, beginning in 1892. The place and date of meeting shall be decided by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors, the Chairmen of State Correspondence, the Presidents of State Feder-

ations, and the members of special committees appointed to report at Biennial meetings shall be entitled to vote.

SECTION 3. To secure suitable arrangements for each Biennial meeting, a local committee from the place of meeting shall be appointed to act in concert with the Board of Directors in arranging for the conduct and general interests of the Biennial.

SECTION 4. When so ordered by the Board of Directors, the minutes and papers of Biennial meetings shall be edited and published by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors, of which the Recording Secretary shall be Chairman.

SECTION 5. All meetings shall be conducted by the rules of parliamentary procedure, the "Woman's Manual" being the authority.

SECTION 6. Each club shall send a Biennial report to the Chairman of its State Committee of Correspondence, to be condensed into her state report, and then passed over to the Recording Secretary to be edited and printed, or to be preserved in the archives.

SECTION 7. The Biennial dues for clubs shall be five dollars for each representative; except that the Biennial dues for each representative for State Federations of less than a hundred clubs, and for each representative of clubs less than a hundred members, belonging to their respective State Federations, shall be half that sum. The dues shall be payable in advance at or previous to each Biennial meeting.

## ARTICLE IV

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The President of the General Federation shall preside at all its meetings, and shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Council and of the Board of Directors, and shall supervise plans for extending, unifying, and rendering efficient the work of the Federation.



SECTION 2. The First Vice President, the Recording Secretary and the Corresponding Secretary, and the Auditor shall perform the duties usually belonging to their respective offices.

SECTION 3. The Treasurer shall collect and hold all money belonging to the General Federation, and shall invest it, subject to the order of the Board of Directors, in some reliable savings bank. Her accounts shall be audited annually and an annual report made to the Board of Directors. A full report shall be made to the Federation at each Biennial meeting.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors shall, at their first meeting following the Biennial, appoint an Executive Committee of three, of whom the President shall be chairman, to transact routine business and to act in emergencies.

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors shall appoint Chairmen of State Correspondence, whose duty it shall be to secure correspondence among local clubs, receive applications for membership, report at Biennial meetings for the clubs of their territories, and do whatever else may be helpful to the cause.

## ARTICLE V

### AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any Biennial meeting by a two thirds vote, provided notice of such proposed amendment shall have been appended to the call of the meeting; or, without such previous notice, the by-laws may be amended at any Biennial meeting by unanimous vote.

## VII.—MAJORITY REPORT OF THE REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

### ARTICLE I

SECTION 1. The General Federation shall consist of Women's Clubs, State Federations, National Societies

and kindred organizations, the two latter to be admitted on the basis of individual clubs.

SECTION 2. The general officers of the Federation shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and an Auditor.

SECTION 3. The general officers of the Federation and eight directors shall constitute a Board of Directors, who shall transact the business of the Federation, subject to its direction, and make a full report at each Biennial meeting, and to the Council when it convenes. They shall meet at the call of the president. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors, presidents of State Federations, presidents of clubs and kindred societies shall constitute a Council to consider and promote the interests of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This Council shall meet the day previous and the day following each Biennial, also at the call of the Board of Directors. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 5. The presidents of State Federations and Board of Directors of the General Federation shall form an advisory council to meet at the call of the president.

Section 5 shall be called section 6 and read as follows :

The seven officers of the General Federation and eight directors shall be elected at Biennial meetings by ballot. One delegate from each state, chosen by the delegation of the state, shall form a nominating board to offer a list of officers and directors for election. A majority vote of those present entitled to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

Section 6 shall be called section 7 and read as follows :

No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no officer shall be eligible to the same general office for more than two terms consecutively. No two members of the board shall be from the same state. One half of the Board of Directors shall be changed at



each Biennial meeting. Each officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the Biennial meeting following that of her election. In case of a vacancy, the Board of Directors shall appoint a member to serve until her successor is elected.

Section 7 shall be called section 8.

Section 8 shall be called section 9 and read as follows:

Each federated club and national society or kindred organization shall be entitled to be represented at the Biennial by one delegate.

Each State Federation shall be entitled to be represented at the Biennial by five delegates, one of whom shall be the state president.

Section 9 shall be called section 10.

## ARTICLE II

SECTION 1. Every organization desiring to join the General Federation shall make application through their president to the president of the General Federation.

They must show that no sectarian or political test is required for membership in their body, and must agree to the constitution and by-laws of the General Federation.

SECTION 2. The president shall refer all applications for membership to the committee on membership appointed by the Board of Directors for its action upon the same.

The action of the committee on membership shall be in writing and a unanimous vote of the committee shall be required to elect. In case the committee fails to agree, the application shall be referred to the whole board, the written vote of two thirds of which shall be necessary to elect to membership.

## ARTICLE III

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors and regularly accredited delegates only shall be entitled to vote at Biennial meetings.

**SECTION 6. Omit.**

Section 7 shall be called section 6 and read as follows :

Annual dues for clubs, national societies and kindred organizations shall be \$6. The annual dues for State Federations shall be \$15.

Dues shall be paid annually, the first of May.

**ARTICLE IV**

**SECTION 2.** The vice presidents, the recording and corresponding secretaries and the auditor shall perform the duties usually belonging to their respective offices.

**SECTION 5.** The state president shall have charge of all General Federation business in the state, and shall appoint a Federation committee as a means of communication between the State and General Federation.

*Note.* — The committee considers that this plan will provide sufficient income for the support of the General Federation.

REBECCA D. LOWE,  
FRANCES MARION HANGER,  
LUCIA EAMES BLOUNT,  
EMMA M. VAN VECHTEN,  
DIMIES T. S. DENISON,  
EMMA HAYWARD ELDREDGE,  
ANNIE GILLESPIE JOHNSON.

**VIII. — MINORITY REPORT OF THE REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**

We, the undersigned, understanding it to be the duty of the Committee on Reorganization, as expressed in the resolution unanimously adopted by the Council of the G. F. W. C., to formulate a plan for reorganization which shall "do away with club representation together with the dependent question of proper taxation and representation," and mindful of the expression of opinion conveyed by replies received by the chairman of the committee to circulars sent out, showing 15 State Federations representing 94,001 members for



this reorganization, and 7 State Federations representing 26,251 members against reorganization, respectfully submit the following minority report:

## PLAN FOR REORGANIZATION: PROPOSED REVISION

### ARTICLE I

SECTION 1. The General Federation shall consist of State Federations of Women's Clubs and Territorial Federations in states or territories where no State Federations exist.

Section 1 in present Constitution shall be made section 2 and shall read as follows:

The general officers of the Federation shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and an Auditor.

Section 2 in present Constitution shall be omitted.

SECTION 3. The general officers of the Federation and eight directors shall constitute a Board of Directors, who shall transact the business of the Federation subject to its direction, and make a full report at each Biennial meeting and to the Council when it convenes. They shall meet at the call of the president or upon the written request of three members. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 4. The presidents of State Federations, chairmen of Federation Committees in Territorial Federations and Board of Directors of the General Federation shall constitute an advisory Council to meet the day previous and the day following each Biennial, and at the call of the president or at the written request of five members of the Council.

SECTION 5. The seven officers of the General Federation and eight directors shall be elected at Biennial meetings by ballot. One delegate from each state, chosen by the delegation of the state, shall form a nominating board to offer a list of officers and directors for election. A majority vote of those present entitled to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

SECTION 6. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no officer shall be eligible to the same general office for more than two terms consecutively. No two members of the board shall be from the same state. One half of the Board of Directors shall be changed at each Biennial meeting. Each officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the Biennial meeting following her election. In case of a vacancy the Board of Directors shall appoint a member to serve until her successor is elected.

SECTION 8. Each State Federation consisting of 1000 or less members shall be entitled to be represented by its president or her appointee and four delegates. Each 300 additional members may be represented by one delegate. Territorial Federations shall be entitled to the same representation.

SECTION 9. All members of the General Federation may be present at the Biennial meetings and may take part in discussions upon all measures brought forward, but shall not introduce motions or vote.

## ARTICLE II

SECTION 1. State Federations desiring to join the General Federation shall make application through their president to the president of the General Federation. They must show that no sectarian or political test is required for membership in their body, and must agree to the constitution and by-laws of the General Federation.

SECTION 2. The president shall refer all applications for membership to the committee on membership appointed by the Board of Directors, for its action upon the same. The action of the committee on membership shall be in writing, and a unanimous vote of the committee shall be required to elect. In case the committee fails to agree, the application shall be referred to the whole Board, the written vote of two thirds of which shall be necessary to elect to membership.



## ARTICLE III

SECTION 1. The meetings of the General Federation shall take place every three years, beginning 1902. The place and date of meeting shall be decided by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors and regularly accredited delegates only shall be entitled to vote at Biennial meetings.

SECTION 6. Omit.

Section 7 shall be called section 6 and read as follows :

The annual dues for State and Territorial Federations shall be three (3) cents per capita. Dues shall be paid annually by the treasurers of State Federations to the treasurer of the General Federation by March 1st. The representation of State and Territorial Federations shall be reckoned by the number of members who have paid the per capita dues by March 1st.

## ARTICLE IV

SECTION 2. The vice-presidents, the recording and corresponding secretaries and the auditor shall perform the duties usually belonging to their respective offices.

SECTION 4. At each meeting of the Board of Directors an executive committee of three of whom the president shall be chairman, shall be appointed by the Board to transact routine business and to act in emergencies until the next Board meeting. The action of this committee shall be unanimous and all action taken by them shall be reported in writing to the Board.

SECTION 5. The state president and Executive Board shall have charge of all General Federation business in her state, and shall appoint a Federation secretary as a means of communication between the State and General Federation. In states or territories where no State Federations exist the Board of Directors shall appoint a committee of three from different sections of the state or territory, who shall have charge of all General Federation business of the state, and in con-

sultation with the Board of Directors, decide how delegates to the Biennial meetings from their state or territory shall be elected. The annual dues of the state or territory shall be paid to the chairman of this committee, who shall remit the same to the treasurer of the General Federation. This committee shall promote intercourse among local clubs, and organize State Federation as soon as practicable. The members of this committee shall be delegates to the Biennial meetings and the chairman shall lead the delegation. In case of the adoption of Triennial meetings, wherever the word Biennial occurs Triennial shall take its place.

The committee is undecided as to the advisability of making the meetings of the General Federation Triennial at present, but made the change in the by-laws at the request of a large number of members, in order that the subject might be discussed at Milwaukee. If the General Federation decides to hold Triennial meetings, the committee considers three cents per capita dues ample for the support of the General Federation. If Biennial meetings are continued, it recommends five cents per capita dues.

Attention is also called to the fact that this plan of reorganization in no wise interferes with the government of State Federations, but leaves them free to elect their delegates, collect their dues and manage their state affairs as they deem best.

DEBORAH N. C. BROCK, Chairman,  
LOUISE DICKINSON SHERMAN,  
MAY ALDEN WARD,  
EMILY E. WILLIAMSON,  
JULIA S. DOUGLAS.



## IX.—AN ACT GRANTING A CHARTER TO THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

*Whereas*, By a certain Act of Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act granting a charter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs," approved March 3, 1901, it was enacted, as follows:

(Public, No. 165)

### An Act Granting a Charter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs:

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. Dimies T. S. Denison, New York, New York; Miss Margaret J. Evans, Northfield, Minnesota; Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Junior, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Emma M. Van Vechten, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. George H. Noyes, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mrs. Edward L. Buchwalter, Springfield, Ohio; Mrs. William J. Christie, Butte, Montana; Mrs. William T. Coad, Rapid City, South Dakota; Mrs. Lora Rockwell Priddy, Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. Frank Sherwin Streeter, Concord, New Hampshire; Mrs. Anna D. West, Somerville, Massachusetts; Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, Indiana; Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, Washington, District of Columbia; Mrs. Ralph Trautman, New York; Mrs. John L. McNeil, Colorado; Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, Washington, District of Columbia; Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Indiana; Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York; Miss Mary V. Temple, Tennessee; Mrs. Phœbe A. Hearst, California; Mrs. Kate Tannett Woods, Massachusetts; Mrs. Julia Plato Harvey, Illinois; Mrs. Jane O. Cooper, Colorado; Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson, Massachusetts; Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Illinois; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Pennsylvania; Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Kentucky; Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Missouri; Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, Massachusetts; Mrs. Frank Trumbull, Colorado;

Miss Annie Laws, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah S. Platt Decker, Colorado; Mrs. J. C. Royle, Utah; Josephine Bates, May Rogers, Octavia W. Bates, Fanny Purdy Palmer, Julia Ward Howe, Cordelia I. Sterling, Katherine Nobles, Mary D. Steele, and their associates and successors, are hereby created a body corporate and politic, of the District of Columbia, by the name, style and title of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, for educational, industrial, philanthropic, literary, artistic and scientific culture, and to bring into communication with one another the various Women's Clubs throughout the world, with power in said corporation to make and use a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure.

SECTION 2. That said corporation is authorized to acquire, by devise, bequest, or otherwise, hold, purchase and convey, such real and personal estate as shall or may be required for the purpose of its incorporation, not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, with authority in said corporation, should it be by it deemed necessary so to do, to mortgage or otherwise incumber the real estate which it may hereafter own and acquire, and may give therefor such evidences of indebtedness as such corporation may decide upon.

SECTION 3. That said corporation shall have a constitution and may adopt and make by-laws for the admission and qualifications of members, the management of its property, and the regulation of its affairs, and shall have the power to amend said constitution and by-laws at pleasure. Said corporation shall have its headquarters at Washington, in the District of Columbia.

Approved March 3, 1901.

William McKinley.

And, *Whereas*, It is desired by the undersigned, named as incorporators in said Act, to formally accept the charter so granted and conferred as aforesaid;

Therefore, the undersigned hereby accept the charter



so granted to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, as well as the provisions and conditions therein set forth, as is evidenced by our signatures hereto.

*Signed*

MARY S. LOCKWOOD, Washington, D.C.

LUCIA EAMES BLOUNT, Washington, D.C.

MRS. JOHN L. MCNEIL (ELLA A.), Denver, Colorado.

MRS. CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS, Indianapolis, Indiana.

MRS. RALPH TRAUTMAN, New York City, New York.

REBECCA DOUGLAS LOWE, Atlanta, Georgia,

President, General Federation Women's Clubs.

DIMIES T. S. DENISON, New York,

First Vice President, General Federation Women's Clubs.

MRS. GEORGE W. KENDRICK, JR., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

Corresponding Secretary, General Federation Women's Clubs.

CLEMENTINE B. BUCHWALTER, Springfield, Ohio,

Director, General Federation Women's Clubs.

EMMA A. FOX, Detroit, Michigan,

Recording Secretary, General Federation Women's Clubs.

MAY WRIGHT SEWALL, Indianapolis, Indiana.

MRS. C. P. BARNES, Louisville, Kentucky.

MRS. GEORGE H. NOYES, Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

Auditor, General Federation Women's Clubs.

MARGARET J. EVANS, Northfield, Minnesota,

Second Vice President, General Federation Women's Clubs.

MRS. EMMA M. VAN VECHTEN, Cedar Rapids, Iowa,

Treasurer, General Federation Women's Clubs.

MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE, St. Louis, Missouri.

MRS. LORA ROCKWELL PRIDDY, Wichita, Kansas,

Director, General Federation Women's Clubs.

(MRS. W. F.) MARION CAMPBELL COAD,

Director, General Federation Women's Clubs.

SARAH S. PLATT-DECKER, Denver, Colorado.

MRS. JOB A. COOPER (JANE O.), Denver, Colorado.

MRS. FRANK TRUMBULL (MARY S.), Denver, Colorado.

MRS. ANNA D. WEST, Somerville, Massachusetts,

Director, General Federation Women's Clubs.

ELIZA KIRTLEY ROYLE, Salt Lake City, Utah.

MRS. WILLIAM J. CHRISTIE, Butte, Montana,

Director, General Federation Women's Clubs.

MARY E. MUMFORD, 711 Spruce Street, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania,

Original Incorporator.

## X. — COMPROMISE RESOLUTION OF THE WEDNESDAY CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

*Whereas*, It is our belief that the two questions of reorganization and the color problem are each of too great importance to risk embarrassment of action from being considered together, and

*Whereas*, We recognize the principle of "States Rights" in the controversy with regard to the color question, and

*Whereas*, We desire a full exemplification of the General Federation's basic principle of "Unity in Diversity"; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That clubs containing colored women shall be eligible to the General Federation in those states and territories in which they are eligible to membership in their state or territorial Federation, and

That where these organizations do not exist, race eligibility shall be declared by a three fifths vote of the clubs.

## XI. — BY-LAWS

AS AMENDED MAY, 1902

### ARTICLE I

SECTION 1. The General Federation shall consist of Women's Clubs, State Federations, Territorial Federations, National Societies and kindred organizations, the two latter to be admitted on the basis of individual clubs.



SECTION 2. The General Officers of the Federation shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and an Auditor.

SECTION 3. The General Officers of the Federation and eight Directors shall constitute a Board of Directors which shall transact the business of the Federation, subject to its direction, and make a full report at each Biennial meeting, and to the Council when it convenes. It shall meet at the call of the President or any three members. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors, Presidents of State Federations, Presidents of Clubs and kindred societies shall constitute a Council to consider and promote the interests of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This Council shall meet the day previous and the day following each Biennial, also at the call of the Board of Directors or at written request of twenty-five members representing as many different states. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 5. The Presidents of State Federations and the Board of Directors of the General Federation shall form an Advisory Council, to meet at the call of the President.

SECTION 6. The seven officers of the General Federation and eight Directors shall be elected at Biennial meetings by ballot. One delegate from each state or territory chosen by the delegation of the state or territory, shall form a nominating board to offer a list of officers and directors for election. A majority vote of those present, entitled to vote and voting, shall constitute an election.

SECTION 7. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no officer shall be eligible to the same general office for more than two consecutive terms. No two members of the Board shall be from the same state. Each officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the Biennial meeting following that of her election. In case of a vacancy the Board

of Directors shall appoint a member to serve until her successor is elected.

SECTION 8. There shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by officers in the service of the Federation may be refunded from the general treasury by order of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 9. Each federated club, national society or kindred organization of fifty members or less shall be entitled to be represented by one delegate; for a membership of between fifty and one hundred, by two delegates; and for each additional one hundred members, one additional delegate.

Each state or territorial federation of twenty-five clubs or less shall be entitled to be represented by five delegates. Each state or territorial federation shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five clubs.

The minimum representation from local federations of ten clubs or less shall be two delegates. Each local federation of more than ten clubs shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every additional twenty clubs.

An alternate shall be elected for each delegate.

SECTION 10. Members of clubs belonging to the General Federation may be present at Biennial meetings, may take part in discussions upon all measures brought forward, but, unless otherwise entitled, shall not introduce motions or vote.

## ARTICLE II

SECTION 1. Every organization desiring to join the General Federation shall make application through their President to the President of the General Federation. They must show that no sectarian or political test is required for membership in their body, and must agree to the constitution and by-laws of the General Federation.

SECTION 2. From a state where a club is a member of the State Federation, it would also be eligible to the



General Federation if recommended to its Executive Board by the Executive Board of the State Federation; the power of admission to remain as given in Article II of the by-laws, as follows:

SECTION 3. The President shall refer all applications for membership to the Committee on Membership appointed by the Board of Directors, for its action upon the same. The action of the Committee on Membership shall be in writing, and a unanimous vote of the Committee shall be required to elect. In case the Committee fails to agree, the application shall be referred to the whole Board, the written vote of two thirds of which shall be necessary to elect to membership.

### ARTICLE III

SECTION 1. The meetings of the General Federation shall take place every two years, beginning in 1892. The place and date of meeting shall be decided by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors and regularly accredited delegates only shall be entitled to vote at Biennial meetings.

SECTION 3. To secure suitable arrangements for each Biennial meeting, a local committee from the place of meeting shall be appointed to act in concert with the Board of Directors in arranging for the conduct and general interests of the Biennial.

SECTION 4. When so ordered by the Board of Directors, the minutes and papers of Biennial meetings shall be edited and published by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors, of which the Recording Secretary shall be chairman.

SECTION 5. All meetings shall be conducted by the rules of parliamentary procedure, "Parliamentary Usage for Women's Clubs" being the authority.

SECTION 6. The annual due for clubs shall be at the rate of ten cents *per capita*.

The annual due for State Federations shall be at the rate of twenty-five cents per club.

The annual due for each local federation of clubs shall be at the rate of \$1 per club.

Dues shall be paid annually the first of May, beginning with 1900.

#### ARTICLE IV

SECTION 1. The President of the General Federation shall preside at all meetings, and shall be ex-officio Chairman of the Council and of the Board of Directors, and shall supervise plans for extending, unifying and rendering efficient the work of the Federation.

SECTION 2. The Vice Presidents, the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries and the Auditor shall perform the duties usually belonging to their respective offices.

SECTION 3. The Treasurer shall collect and hold all money belonging to the General Federation, and shall invest it, subject to the order of the Board of Directors, in some reliable savings bank. Her accounts shall be audited annually, and an annual report made to the Board of Directors. A full report shall be made to the Federation at each Biennial meeting.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors shall, at their first meeting following the Biennial, appoint an Executive Committee of three, of whom the President shall be chairman, to transact routine business and to act in emergencies.

SECTION 5. It shall be the duty of each State Federation and each Territorial Federation to elect a Federation Secretary as a means of communication between the State and Territorial Federations and the General Federation.

It shall be the duty of the Federation Secretary to assist the President of the Federation in promoting the interests of the General Federation in her state or territory, and endeavor to bring clubs not belonging to the General Federation into this organization.

In states or territories where no federation exists, the Board of Directors of the General Federation shall



appoint a committee of three from different sections of the state or territory, who shall have charge of all General Federation business of the state.

## ARTICLE V

These by-laws may be amended at any Biennial meeting by a two thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be in the possession of the Recording Secretary at least two months before the date of the Biennial and shall be appended to the call of the meeting.

These by-laws may be amended at any Biennial meeting by unanimous vote without previous notice.

## XII. — LIST OF FIRST CLUBS

There is a very great difference of opinion regarding the first woman's club. Several states have a claimant for this honor and many substantiate their claims with strong arguments. It may be of interest to quote from an article which appeared in the July, 1908, number of the *New England Magazine*, from the pen of Helen M. Winslow, than whom there is no woman better able to speak with accuracy.

"The following," she says, "is a table giving the earliest clubs formed in each state:

"Arkansas, the Columbian of Little Rock, 1883; Pacaha, 1888.

"Alabama, Cadmean Circle, Birmingham, 1888; Kettledrum, Tuscaloosa, 1888; Thursday, Selma, 1890.

"California, Ebell of Oakland, 1876.

"Colorado, Denver Fortnightly, 1881; Monday Literary, 1881; Boulder Fortnightly, 1884.

"Connecticut, Cosy Club, Bridgeport, the '50's; New Britain Woman's Club, 1875; English Literary Club of Bridgeport, 1879.

"Dakotas, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Ladies' History Club, 1879; Fargo, North Dakota, Woman's, 1884.

"Delaware, New Century Club of Wilmington, 1889.

"District of Columbia, National Woman's Press Association, 1882.

"Florida, Green Cove Springs Village Improvement Society, 1887.

"Georgia, Nineteenth Century History Club, 1885.

"Idaho, Treble Clef of Cœur de Alene, 1894.

"Illinois, Ladies' Education Association of Jacksonville, 1833; Friends in Council, Quincy, 1866; Jacksonville Sorosis, 1868.

"Indiana, Minerva of New Harmony, 1858; Bronté of Madison, 1864; Indianapolis Woman's Club, 1875; Muncie Woman's Club, 1876.

"Iowa, Fenelon Street Circle of Dubuque, 1857; Conversational Club of Dubuque, 1868; Ladies' Literary Association of Dubuque, 1876.

"Kansas, Friends in Council of Lawrence, 1877; Zodiac, 1878; Social Science Club (state), 1880.

"Kentucky, Covington Art Club, 1887.

"Louisiana, Geographic Club of New Orleans, 1880.

"Maine, Monday Club of Portland, 1877; First State Federation, 1892.

"Maryland, Lend a Hand Club of Mt. Washington, 1872.

"Massachusetts, Ladies' Physiological Institute, 1848; Randolph Ladies' Library Association, 1855; New England Woman's Club, 1868; Wednesday Morning of Boston, 1870; Nantucket Sorosis, 1872; Lady Teachers' Association, Boston, 1874; Home Club, East Boston, 1875.

"Michigan, Ladies' Library Association of Kalamazoo, 1852; Ladies' Library Association of Battle Creek, 1864; Ladies' Literary Club of Grand Rapids, 1869; Lansing Woman's Club, 1874; Detroit Woman's, Jackson Woman's, and Ladies' Library of Schoolcraft, 1879.

"Minnesota, St. Cloud Reading Circle, 1880; Minneapolis Tuesday Club, 1872.

"Missouri, Springfield Ladies' Saturday Club, 1879.

"Montana, Homer Club of Butte, 1891.

"Nebraska, Zotetic of Weeping Water, 1884.

"New Hampshire, Manchester Shakespeare Club, early '70's; Concord Shakespeare Club, 1877.



"New Jersey, Woman's Club of Orange, 1872; Shrewsbury Reading Circle, 1877; Friday Club of Bridgeton, 1880.

"New Mexico, Fifteen Club of Santa Fe, 1891.

"New York, Sorosis, 1868; Brooklyn Woman's Club, 1869; Social Art Club of Syracuse, 1875; Graduates' Association of Buffalo, 1876.

"Ohio, Ladies' Centennial Book Club of Ottawa, and the New Century of Toledo, 1876; Conversational Club of Cleveland, 1878.

"Oregon, Thursday Afternoon Club of Pendleton, 1884.

"Pennsylvania, Schuylkill Shakespearean Society, 1875; the New Century Club of Philadelphia, 1877.

"Rhode Island, Olla Podrida of Woonsocket, 1875; Rhode Island Woman's Club (Providence), 1877.

"South Carolina, Spartansburg Ladies' Association, 1884.

"Tennessee, Ossoli Circle of Knoxville, 1884.

"Texas, Quid Nunc of Tyler, and Dallas Shakespeare Club, 1886.

"Utah, the Ladies' Literary Club of Salt Lake City, 1877.

"Vermont, Friends in Council, Rutland, 1878.

"Washington, Olympia Woman's Club, 1883.

"Wisconsin, Clio of Sparta, 1871, Friends in Council of Berlin, 1873; Milwaukee Art and Science Association, 1874; Woman's Club of Wisconsin, 1876.

"Wyoming, Queen Anne of Cheyenne, some time in the '80's."

Note. — In this table will be found several clubs whose date of organization precedes that of the two clubs most commonly regarded as the pioneer women's clubs, Sorosis of New York and the New England Woman's Club of Massachusetts. Illinois shows two clubs which antedate and one which is coexistent with Sorosis. Indiana and Michigan each have two and Iowa one which were organized prior to 1868. Of these the Ladies' Education Association of Illinois has the distinction of being the earliest federated club in existence.

### XIII. — DATE OF ORGANIZATION OF STATE FEDERATIONS

Maine, 1892	Arkansas, 1897
Iowa, 1893	Connecticut, 1897
Utah, 1893	Delaware, 1897
Massachusetts, 1894	Florida, 1897
Kentucky, 1894	Oklahoma, 1897
Illinois, 1894	Texas, 1899
Ohio, 1894	South Carolina, 1899
New Jersey, 1894	Maryland, 1900
New York, 1894	California, 1900
Nebraska, 1894	South Dakota, 1900
Minnesota, 1895	Oregon, 1901
District of Columbia, 1895	Arizona, 1902
Michigan, 1895	Louisiana, 1902
Colorado, 1895	Montana, 1904
Pennsylvania, 1895	Indian Territory, 1904
Rhode Island, 1895	West Virginia, 1904
Georgia, 1895	Mississippi, 1904
Kansas, 1895	Wyoming, 1904
New Hampshire, 1895	Idaho, 1905
Missouri, 1895	Indiana, 1906
Tennessee, 1896	Alabama, 1907
Vermont, 1896	Virginia, 1907
Washington, 1896	Canal Zone, 1908
Wisconsin, 1896	Nevada, 1910
North Dakota, 1897	New Mexico, 1911

### XIV. — ABSTRACT OF WILLIAM H. ALLEN'S ADDRESS AT CINCINNATI

BEFORE THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS, MAY 17

Director of the N. Y. Bureau of Municipal Research  
and author of "Civics and Health"

Acting for 800,000 American citizens, the General Federation of Women's Clubs has undertaken to work



during the next year for five universal needs of the American child :

1. For better-equipped, better-ventilated and cleaner school buildings.

2. For more numerous, larger, and better-supervised playgrounds.

3. For medical school inspection, and school nurses.

4. For physical education and instruction in personal hygiene.

5. For instruction in normal schools in wise methods of presenting the essentials of personal and sex hygiene.

This five-headed program will be welcomed as never before by teachers in private, parochial and public schools, because it will be understood as never before. Examination of public school children for defects of vision, breathing, teeth, lungs, etc., is mandatory in Colorado, Massachusetts and New Jersey. Permissive or optional laws have been passed for California, Connecticut, Minnesota, Washington, the District of Columbia and Maine. In Vermont sight and hearing are tested in September of each year. In Ohio, cities must have physical examinations, while rural districts may. In Indianapolis children in private and parochial schools, as well as public schools, must be examined. More than two thirds of 550 cities having 8000 or more inhabitants have already begun such examinations even in the absence of specific laws authorizing or compelling them. Playground movements are started in 400 cities. The common drinking cup has been found guilty and sentenced to extinction in California, Wisconsin and Massachusetts. California, South Dakota and Wisconsin have recognized the state's obligation to insure properly constructed and properly ventilated school buildings even in rural districts. Everywhere instruction in personal hygiene is compulsory. Full page illustrated stories about school hygiene, dental clinics, playgrounds and physical culture, and almost daily notices, are no longer strangers to our newspapers. The contents of magazines and

the official utterances of leading educators prove that State Superintendent Joyner's comment regarding North Carolina is true wherever the Stars and Stripes fly: "The subject of children's health is being discussed and thought over possibly as much as, if not more than, any other subject that concerns our people to-day."

Nobody challenges the child's right to the five benefits for which you will work this coming year. In most states the propaganda stage is passed. The time for execution has come. The question is no longer "Shall we?" but "How shall we?" "When shall we start?" and "How efficiently shall we keep at it?" The country will respond heartily to any sustained effort to fill in the gap between what we know ought to be done for the child's physical welfare and what we are actually getting done through our schools.

By directing the attention of 800,000 women to these five distinct but related fields, the General Federation of Women's Clubs is in position to correct two fundamental errors which influence the thinking and the doing of the world's largest givers. No one who has once seen the immediate importance of your program to over 20,000,000 children that are, and its indirect importance to millions upon millions yet to be, could continue to believe what Mr. Carnegie still believes and repeatedly says — that it is almost impossible to find worthy objects for his beneficent interest. Just one day's study of your program would prove conclusively to Mr. Rockefeller that he, too, is fundamentally wrong when he says in his autobiography: "There is not, and never will be, money enough to do the world's uplift work."

There will never be money enough to make mouth breathing a thing of beauty, or to prevent adenoids and enlarged tonsils from dimming the intellect, bad teeth from injuring nutrition, and depleted vitality from inviting tuberculosis. All the philanthropists in the world put together have too little money to



make air pure in a badly ventilated schoolroom, to keep germs of disease and indifference from breeding on unclean floors and walls, or to make a stuffy indoor playroom a fit substitute for an outdoor playground.

There is not and never will be money enough — or time enough, or women enough — to execute the Federation's program for the physical welfare of school children, if we go about it the wrong way. But there are women enough — and money enough, and time enough — to carry that program far beyond our present dreams, if we go about it efficiently.

The first effect of announcing any comprehensive plan for human uplift is to inspire all who read with a desire to coöperate. If, however, nothing happens but *talk*, and if enthusiasm dries up into disappointment, the reader is apt to become an obstructionist, less open-minded and less willing to give enthusiastic support to later uplift programs. Indifference or inefficiency or fickleness or procrastination in the name of a good cause is apt to do more harm than active work in a bad cause. Since men and women often work inefficiently with the best of motives, I want to suggest two or three pitfalls which it seems to me important to avoid in striving to execute your statesmanlike program.

It is inefficient to impose new obligations upon the school without providing the machinery, the workers and the funds necessary for discharging those obligations. It is inefficient to expect the American school to redeem its pledges to the American child without the intelligent support of the American parent, taxpayer and press. It is inefficient to forget that the American public school is but one of very many agencies necessary to bringing up children properly, and that any attempt to help the school child which weakens these other agencies and relieves them of responsibility will ultimately injure the child by weakening and crippling the school itself. For schools to "go it alone" without reference to other established agencies that have been

evolved by civilization is to interfere with the future efficiency of the schools, as well as with the future efficiency of all other social and industrial agencies.

It is inefficient to try to get done through the public school that which outside agencies can do better. It is inefficient to tempt or to compel the public school to undertake that for which it is not intended and for which it can never be fitted. It is inefficient to try to get anything done through the public school which overloads the school or the schoolteachers. It is inefficient to ask the American school to act as a substitute for mother, home, hospital, clinic, church, police department, street cleaning department, health department, museum, factory and relief society.

It is inefficient to be informed with regard to, or interested in, only a small fraction of the problems confronting the school, and only a small fraction of the work done by it. It is inefficient to condone shortcomings in that for which the schools are intended, on the ground that they are doing brilliantly work transferred from home or dispensary or employment bureau; to leave educational duties undone or to do them shabbily will manufacture problems that can never be compensated for by spicing and enriching the curriculum. It is inefficient to applaud or to coddle a city superintendent or teacher or trustee who would rather work with an uninformed, spineless public than with an exacting, because intelligent, public. It is inefficient to be more interested in the subnormal, atypical child than in the normal; in children's diseases than in children's health; in fresh air for tuberculous children than in fresh air for all children. It is inefficient to divert public attention from one hundred per cent to three or ten per cent of the school problem or the health problem.

It would certainly be inefficient to concentrate the interest of 800,000 earnest women upon the physical welfare of the school child at the expense of interest in the educational progress of that child and the educa-



tional efficiency of the school curriculum, teacher, attendance officer, principal, superintendent and trustee.

At the next Biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs the world will ask you to compare work accomplished between now and then with work outlined to-day. Two attitudes toward this challenging question are suggested by my two boys of five and three. On their playroom blackboard the other day were carefully printed a number of words of three and four letters. Under certain of these words was a little twisted sign that looked somewhat like an "s." When asked what that sign meant the older boy said he put that under the words which he had not printed well enough, and that "s" stands for "sorry." What did his younger brother do when his words were not printed well enough? It developed that this lad of three has invented a "double" by the name of George, and when his work does not square with his own efficiency test he says: "Oh, George did that."

Will you frankly write a little "s" where the world can read it under such of your achievements as has not measured up to your undertaking, advertising that you see, and are sorry for, the gap between what you wanted to do and what you may get done? Or will you individually and collectively invent a "double" and shift the responsibility to "George"?

Success in avoiding these and other pitfalls of inefficiency in getting things done through the school depends very much upon the beginnings of your year's work. Of the 800,000 women in your Federation even the most active will give but a few days of a few weeks of the next two years to executing your program. If you rely upon what you can do with your own hands and your own eyes, very much can be accomplished, although relatively little compared with the needs and the opportunity. If, on the other hand, you spend the energy which you can spare for this work through existing agencies, you can hitch your program to hundreds

of thousands of men and women who give the greater part of five days of forty weeks every year to tasks immediately connected with the five objects of your program. You cannot take the place of school teachers and city superintendents and principals and mayors and taxpayers. You can interest them in your program, which is likewise their program, and support them in its execution. You can make this program a vital part of their thinking and their doing. You can give them information and make suggestions which will influence one hundred per cent of their working hours and working energy. You can secure for them the coöperation they need from their communities.

With respect to the five goals of your program I am venturing to suggest certain detailed next steps likely to be needed in your home communities, including a list of cities that have begun medical inspection and school nursing. Before turning to these particulars, however, I should like to suggest ten more general opportunities for leadership and support which confront your organization and which relate to the efficiency of your next year's work:

1. *That you coöperate with state superintendents of education in securing model laws for promoting school hygiene from the thirty-six state legislatures that will meet next winter.* The time to organize for legislation is between now and the summer vacation. If between your meeting this week and the meeting of the National Education Association in July you get in touch with state superintendents, county superintendents and city superintendents of education, you can be of great assistance to the Boston meetings and can, perhaps, be the means of crystallizing in every state a movement for legislation next winter. Not only are you more likely to get results from your own members if you begin at once, but a day now is worth a month next fall in getting ready for next year's legislation. Likewise, a week between now and the close of school next month will save almost a year in those cities that



have not yet begun physical examination and medical inspection.

2. *That you organize to be of assistance to the superintendents of instruction in Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines who are anxious to secure school physicians, school nurses and other health protection for their school children.* Address Commissioner Edwin G. Lexter, San Juan, Porto Rico; Superintendent W. H. Babbitt, Honolulu, Hawaii; Superintendent Dana B. Barrows, Manila, Philippines.

3. *That you offer to coöperate with some Boston agency and with the Massachusetts State Board of Education in exhibiting at the National Education Association's meetings in Boston during next July laws, pamphlets, instructions, record cards, notices to parents, etc., having to do with the physical welfare of school children, more particularly with physical examination and medical inspection.* Among the 20,000 visitors to the Boston meetings there will be at least hundreds whose intelligent and interested coöperation is essential to the success of your program. At a majority of the meetings one or more aspects of your program will be discussed. Giving visitors definite, constructive suggestions for their own communities will accomplish infinitely more than can long range correspondence during next year. It is not unlikely that Mrs. E. H. Clement, of Boston, who has been endeavoring to work out educational uses for the moving picture and illustrated lecture, would coöperate with you by giving demonstrations that would include not only *facsimiles* of necessary records, laws, etc., but physical examinations and treatment of physical defects.

4. *That you formulate simple instructions to guide local committees desiring to assist in school matters.* After one year with your program it ought no longer to be true of any city, what is now true of many cities, that for every person intelligently interested in school work, there are ten interested in almshouses, juvenile courts, jails, rescue homes and charitable relief.

5. *That you appoint special committees on school budgets and issue clear instructions to your members, showing how they may help school superintendents secure the funds necessary to do any new work proposed by you.* It is no kindness to a superintendent or mayor or school child to propose new work requiring additional expenditure when it is too late to make that expenditure for another whole year. Unless special attention is given to the school budget before the end of the present fiscal year, the mistake of the New York Child Welfare Exhibit will be generally imitated, namely: a grand display of the needs of the child in November, 1910, *after* the budget for the year 1911 is irrevocably voted. Thus any constructive benefits resulting from an exhibit which will cost probably \$75,000 and will attract national attention must be postponed for fourteen months, so far as city work is concerned, whereas, the holding of that same exhibit in October, 1910, would make possible and certain many constructive benefits dating from January 1, 1911.

6. *That you arrange to coöperate with the committee of five recently appointed by the National Education Association to devise and to recommend uniform school records and reports.* For fifty years futile efforts have been made to secure uniform adequate school reports. The present effort promises to be more successful, partly because leading city and state superintendents have determined that the school story must be more adequately told, and partly because the United States Commissioner of Education and the United States Bureau of Census have taken an active lead for the past four years. Only yesterday an important conference of school auditors convened in Washington upon the call of the auditor of New York City's schools and of the United States Commissioner of Education.

You can publish a list of questions for your members to ask about the monthly and annual school reports issued by your city and county and state superintendents. You can ask the questions which will bring



out the story which the school only can tell. What the world thinks about Mr. Rockefeller's giving is infinitely more important than any single thing that Mr. Rockefeller can do; likewise what the world thinks about the program confronting the school is more important than any single thing that the school can do. Towns, cities, states and nation will listen to the story told by the public school. There are energies within society which will attend to these problems if we can persuade the leaders in school work to tell us the truth about their handicaps and about the location of their problems.

Democratic management of public schools never will be possible until we have more facts than have ever yet been available. To get more facts we must have more records and better reports. The time will come when a pension, not a halo, will be given to foremost educators and civic leaders who boast that they can learn about schools without school reports. The time is also coming when the wheel of fortune will give way to the searchlight as the emblem of school policy, and when the kindergarten rank of school administrators will no longer worship "*King Guess*" and will openly dare to honor "*Proof*."

When school reports disclose our nation's greatest needs and vast opportunities, it will no longer be easier to get \$100 to study the boll weevil, the south pole or irrigation than to get \$10 to study where and why our system of universal free education is neither free nor universal nor educational. Wherever the general public is without desire to challenge or without ability to test curriculum, method and environment, it is simply gambling, and to determine school policy by guesses is a worse form of gambling than was ever conceived on race track or stock exchange.

Could any sadder commentary on the failure to apply efficiency tests to schools be found than the fact that of all the insects and sciences, inventions, misfortunes, and suicides that were subjects of White House confer-

ences during the Roosevelt *régime*, school management and the nation's responsibility for adequate education drew forth not even an interview? Yet President Roosevelt would much rather talk about simplified breathing than simplified spelling, if only he could see the significance of your program.

7. *That you prepare suggestions through your various journals not only for public meetings, and women's clubs, but for lectures and sermons on the public platform and in the pulpit.* Of particular assistance would be the coöperation of chambers of commerce, boards of trade, merchants' associations, etc., which, under the aggressive leadership of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, are coming more and more to interest themselves in health and educational projects.

8. *That you undertake to interest one or more magazines of national circulation in pressing upon the public and upon officials the importance of your program, and its next steps.*

9. *That you conduct a bureau of information and correspondence which will be of service to local committees of your organization and to other organizations desiring to further one or more parts of your program.* A brilliant illustration of what such follow-up work will do is afforded by the National Playground Association, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City. While its success in large part is due to the backing of the Russell Sage Foundation, it should not be forgotten that it secured this backing because of its definite, constructive, workable plan. A levy of five cents in currency or in stamps upon each member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs would produce a fund adequate to execute your program and to affect the spending of millions of dollars by our municipalities and states. Would not the influence of your 800,000 members be appreciably increased if public officials and taxpayers knew that you had taxed yourselves for continuous, cumulative, educational work in support of your own program?



10. *That as part of your program for the individual child you interest all your members in the almost unlimited possibilities for good of an efficient, adequately supported United States Bureau of Education.* The time is coming when the United States Commissioner of Education will not be expected to serve a constituency of 90,000,000 with a smaller appropriation than any one of scores of private charities and associations are given for a few hundred constituents. Instead of being the least popular of all national departments, the United States Bureau of Education will come to exercise, as it should exercise, a greater educational influence than any fifty universities combined. It never ought to be possible again for a separate children's bureau to be urged on the ground that the United States Bureau of Education is not and cannot be equipped to ask necessary questions about the welfare of school children.

As for the five planks of your platform, let us remember that everybody believes in what you want to get. It is well not to belabor a convinced jury with exhortation. What is needed is not argument, but a bill of particulars. To indicate where you may be of immediate help, I am submitting returns from 411 city superintendents of schools, showing what their cities were actually undertaking to do for the physical welfare of school children April 1, 1910, and what further steps they then definitely planned to take before the end of this school year. This information was obtained in answer to inquiries sent out by the Bureau of Municipal Research for Miss Dorothy Whitney, who had in mind your plan to "make known everywhere and to get done everywhere what is known to be necessary everywhere for the physical welfare of school children." In this list you will find (see separately printed tables) that returns are given for 411 cities having an aggregate population of 22,200,000. Effective beginnings of work for the physical welfare of school children have been made in those cities as follows:

- 198 (+ 8 ?) — inspect for transmissible diseases.
- 237 (+ 4 ?) — examine for defective vision.
- 156 (+ 14 ?) — examine for breathing troubles.
- 124 (+ 12 ?) — examine for defective teeth.
- 59 (+ 8 ?) — have begun to take note of tuberculous children.
- 86 (+ 11 ?) — have effected special coöperation between the schools and local dispensaries and hospitals.
- 66 (+ 5) — have one or more school nurses.
- 39 (+ 10) — give house-to-house instruction of parents in the physical care of children.
- 91 (+ 10) — circulate among parents cards of instruction.

Experimental beginnings have been made in several cities, as indicated in the foregoing parentheses, with respect to which superintendents have written "just begun," or "not very thorough as yet," or "volunteer workers thus far," etc. For 129 cities having a population of 2,700,000, superintendents report that examination and corrective work had begun on April 1.

Population figures are given because better results are generally obtained by quoting experience in cities of the same size as that which one is urging to take some forward step. The names of state superintendents are given because the school hygiene crusade has reached the point where they need the support of citizens and where, also, they are in position to help small cities and rural districts by sending blank records, reports, cards of instruction, etc.

In making detailed suggestions under your five general headings, I have tried to select next steps which it is practical for busy women to take, and which it is reasonable to expect the committees of the General Federation of Women's Clubs to take between now and your next Biennial. It will be noticed that for the most part the suggestions are quite as applicable to parochial and private schools as to public schools.



FOR BETTER-EQUIPPED, BETTER-VENTILATED AND  
CLEANER SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1. Arrange to have each room in each school building inspected at least once during school hours and once during cleaning hours.

2. Have at least one inspection made before June 30, so that vacation time may be used for necessary repairs and improvements; reinspect in early winter, when ventilation defects will show better.

3. Send to school principals, superintendents, trustees and the local papers a list of specified rooms in specified buildings where ventilation is bad, floors unclean or equipment unsatisfactory.

4. Demand the abolition of "dry cleaning" and feather dusters.

5. See whether teachers and pupils are afraid of unclean air and unclean floors and find them repulsive.

6. Interest state superintendents in issuing instructions and questions for general distribution; for illustration send to State Superintendent Edward Hyatt, Sacramento, California.

7. Have your state follow Wisconsin's example in paying a bonus of \$50 a year for three years to rural schools which comply with a minimum requirement of ventilation, cleanliness, etc.

8. Do missionary work with school janitors and cleaners, so that they will appreciate their opportunity to promote or to injure the health of their community; help secure pay enough to buy cleanliness.

9. Support your state superintendents of education in demanding that all new school buildings comply with a minimum requirement of equipment, ventilation and sanitation.

10. Learn whether automatic perfect ventilating schemes force in or keep out clean air.

FOR MORE NUMEROUS, LARGER AND BETTER-SUPER-  
VISED PLAYGROUNDS

1. Prepare a list of all school buildings in your city.
2. Show on a map which school buildings have no playgrounds adjacent and which existing school playgrounds are too small.
3. See that adequate playgrounds are allowed for all new school buildings.
4. In urging more playgrounds make a comprehensive plan and map showing all the playgrounds needed so that behind your demand for each new playground will be the needs of one hundred per cent of your city's children.
5. Have estimates prepared of the cost of securing land and equipping a playground for each needy section, emphasizing the importance and economy of ample reservations in not-yet-congested districts.
6. In working for playgrounds work also for large parks within which plots shall be reserved for play.
7. In urging better supervision, state candidly the amount of extra expense involved; at the same time show your city officials how many school children will be directly benefited by the proposed slight increase for supervision, and how it will increase the return to the city from all the money spent through its school and health budgets.
8. Begin by obtaining permission from city officials and private citizens to utilize vacant lots.
9. Pending acquisition of ample playgrounds, make play in certain streets safe and attractive by diverting traffic to selected streets and by providing supervision of street play.
10. For convincing information, guides and methods of work consult the National Playground Association, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City. For rural districts get in touch with Dr. George J. Fisher, National Y. M. C. A. Secretary for Playgrounds, 124 East 28th Street, New York City.



## FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL INSPECTION AND SCHOOL NURSES

1. So define "medical school inspection" that it will include the physical examination of school children for defects of vision, breathing, teeth, lungs, etc.; and so define "school nurses" that it will mean instruction of mothers in their homes and at schools in the reasons for and methods of removing physical defects.

2. Help secure state legislation making it compulsory in every school district to have every school child thoroughly examined at least once a year.

3. Secure cards of instruction, blank forms, etc., from your State Superintendent of Education, and show them to trustees, editors and leading citizens and professional men.

4. Secure a descriptive report regarding home conditions and physical defects by the Committee on Physical Welfare of School Children, 105 East 22d Street, New York City.

5. Secure the book "Medical Inspection," by Gulick and Ayres; "Civics and Health" may also prove suggestive.

6. If examinations have been begun, see that all children are benefited and not a few only, estimating the additional expense necessary to do one hundred per cent of the task of examining, and following up to secure removal of defects.

7. Learn from State Superintendent Katherine M. Cook, Denver, Colorado, or State Commissioner of Education David D. Snedden, Boston, Mass., how far teachers have been found successful in discovering physical defects.

8. If no examinations have yet been made, interest at least one physician, one dentist and one oculist in making preliminary examinations of 50 or 100 children that will prove to your city that the children of your private, public and parochial schools are no exception to the rule established in hundreds of cities and rural districts. *Fully two out of three children have physical*

*defects that require medical, dental or ocular treatment, and that interfere with their health and their school progress.*

9. Demonstrate by home visiting that it is relatively easy to persuade parents to do what they ought to do to remove physical defects of children. Parents may be interested in "before and after" pictures which illustrate how much better a child looks after adenoids, enlarged tonsils, enlarged glands, have been removed, after eyeglasses have corrected eye strain, etc. In most large cities there will be many parents whose willingness exceeds their financial ability; therefore the need for interesting individual professional men in securing from existing hospitals and dispensaries special attention to school children, in organizing new hospitals and dispensaries, or in arranging special hours with private practitioners.

10. Write to the Children's Aid Society, 105 East 22d Street, New York City, for information as to its "adenoid parties" and its free dental clinics; to Magistrate Peter T. Barlow for information regarding the Free Dental Clinic for Children, at 419 East 121st Street, New York City, where a nurse from the health department "completes her cases," *i.e.* secures treatment; to Dr. W. R. Woodbury, 145 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass., for information regarding the "Dental Awakening" in this country and abroad; to Mrs. H. Ingram, 105 East 22d Street, New York City, for facts about the coöperation of teachers with a private relief and fresh air agency.

#### FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION IN PERSONAL HYGIENE

1. From the outset combat the idea that children in rural districts do not need physical examination and remedial follow-up work. *Congestion is a crowd of germs, and not a crowd of people.*

2. Persuade teachers to undergo physical examinations. In the long run we cannot promote the physical



welfare of school children by breaking down the health of school-teachers.

3. Provide as do Massachusetts, Maine and Connecticut that janitors and school buildings shall also have physical examinations.

4. Convince teachers that clean air, clean blood and vitality among their children will make their own work easier.

5. Find out with respect to each room in each school whether children are interested in personal hygiene by interesting them first in social hygiene. As play with others gives the best physical education, so others' repugnance gives the best reason for personal hygiene.

6. Find with respect to each room in each school whether the laws of hygiene are being practiced. Nothing to-day hampers the movement for better and more playgrounds more than bad ventilation in public schools and in homes, which reduces energy and zest for play. An open window is the best possible apostle of ventilation.

7. Learn whether nervous strain at school or compulsory home study unfits the child to benefit from the physical education given at school or to enjoy play hours; and whether the kind and degree of formal instruction varies with the child's physical needs and capabilities.

8. Find with respect to each class whether instruction in physical education is given *through* play or *instead* of play.

9. Follow New York's example and have children marked for progress in physical education. For information address Dr. C. Ward Crampton, Physical Director, Board of Education, New York City. As the *New York World* says: "That Johnny Jones shall hold his head up, breathe properly, brush his clothing, keep his muscles in condition and be cleanly in appearance will, in fact, have about as much to do with his success and happiness in life as the things a studious youth can easily learn out of his books."

10. Interest private and parochial schools in carrying their instruction and practice at least as far as public schools.

FOR INSTRUCTION IN NORMAL SCHOOLS IN WISE  
METHODS OF PRESENTING THE ESSENTIALS OF PERSONAL AND SEX HYGIENE

1. Through state committees make a thorough canvass of normal schools to see whether, by whom, how and how often the essentials of personal and sex hygiene are now being taught; particularly whether knowledge of these essentials is a requisite to obtaining a certificate either from the normals or from city examining boards.

2. Secure the physical examination every year of normal school students; teachers who have never related personal hygiene and sex hygiene to themselves are not apt adequately to present the essential facts to children.

3. Find out whether the physical environment of students at normal schools promotes personal hygiene, and whether the social environment promotes the right attitudes toward sex health. Free, wholesome, pleasure-giving social relations will always be an important supplement to formal instruction in sex hygiene.

4. Follow the example of the city of Manila in teaching sex hygiene through instruction of girls in care of infants and infant-feeding.

5. With respect to sex hygiene, emphasize in arguments and literature the normal rather than the pathological; sex health rather than sex disease; normal rather than abnormal sex relations.

6. Have your state follow the example of Massachusetts and "provide for pupils in the normal schools instruction and practice in the best method of testing the sight and hearing of children"; go farther and include breathing and mouth hygiene tests.

7. Arrange for volunteer committees to inspect normal schools regularly for ventilation, cleanliness, equipment and practice of hygienic laws.



8. Arrange mothers' meetings at normal schools when future teachers may discuss children's physical needs.

9. Ask your county superintendent to work out a sample treatment of personal and sex hygiene for teachers' institutes.

10. Ask your state superintendent to print the facts about hygiene taught and practiced in normal schools.

## XV. — YESTERDAY — THE MAGIC MOTTO, UNITY IN DIVERSITY

MRS. MARY E. MUMFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR FRIENDS — BOTH OLD AND NEW: You have assigned to me a very pleasant though somewhat difficult task, to tell the story of twenty crowded years in twenty minutes. I am quite aware also that to accept this place on the evening's program is to make an honest confession of age, since it is only the aged who are prone to — or are permitted to — reminisce. And they must guard well the tongue lest they become not reminiscent, but garrulous. I trust the presiding officer will not allow me to exceed my time limit, not for your sakes, but for mine own, lest I should fail of my pet ambition, which is to have written on my tombstone, "She never bored anybody." You have doubtless read in a recent *Atlantic*, Mrs. Deland's delightful story of the wife whose husband said to her: "Women cannot argue. They always become at once so personal." To which she replied with spirit, "I don't." But I make no disclaimer, I intend to be frankly and warmly personal in my recollections of those who projected and developed our great Federation.

Since, then, I am cast to play for you the rôle of a "woman with a past" (using a figure borrowed from a friend) let me omit further preface and get down to my story.

As you all know, it was Sorosis that did it — and this

was quite natural since Sorosis has always been "doing" something — she was scarcely out of pinafores when she began to have convictions and to express them, too, on great upsetting topics like the need of dress reform; and while she still wore braids adown her back she planned great banquets where brainy women were wont to gather and to which she also invited men — aye, and compelled them to keep silence while she did all the talking. She even allowed newspaper reporters at her feasts, in consequence of which she "got herself talked about." But conscious of her own integrity, she laughed at scare headlines, and went on her way rejoicing.

Now, of course, such a precocious maiden as this one could not come up to her twentieth birthday without seeking to make of it a more than ordinary occasion. So she said as usual, "Go to — we must do something."

Then up spoke a well-beloved member of her ranks, that grand woman whose brain was fine as gold, whose heart was true as steel, "Jennie June" (we call her by her sweet summer name to-night), and she counseled that Sorosis could do no finer or worthier thing than to assemble for her celebration that fine flower of the women of this country, who had shown that they had brains and constructive ability enough to form themselves into women's clubs.

So Sorosis sent out her cards of greeting and invitation summoning ninety-seven clubs, all she could discover in the length and breadth of the land, to come and assist in her celebration. I fully believe future chronicles will relate that that was the greatest birthday in the history of the world.

Now, there were divers clubs living in quiet seclusion along the Atlantic seaboard. Claiming the same year of birth as Sorosis was the New England Woman's Club of Boston. This was organized on a very high plane of culture and philanthropy, including in its membership a few nice old men, a sort of guarantee of perfect respectability. It was in deference to this male element,



I suppose, that they had among their stated gatherings a monthly feast at which creature comforts were dispensed, baked beans and brown bread, of course, and a very superior quality of escalloped oysters.

Copying this form of organization Philadelphia had also formed its Woman's Club. Solid wooden shutters protected it from the outer world, and the uninitiated might not soil its immaculate white marble steps.

Husbands and brothers were permitted at the monthly teas, but they seldom came. The viands dispensed did not greatly tempt the grosser sex. To have its name mentioned in the daily paper would give a dislocating shudder to the backbone of a club such as these.

Into these strongholds of conservatism came the startling invitation from Sorosis, all done up in glittering white and gold as I remember it, bristling with the spirit of the outside world, suggesting that women might meet in the open, and hold public discussion, or set forth their opinions at banquets, luncheons, receptions or dinners. That there was a fluttering in the dovescotes you may well believe. Should we participate in the doings of this flighty sister of ours? Might we not be chronicled in the daily papers as standing for progressive ideas we did not approve?

Boston, no doubt, took counsel of her saints, recalled that Ralph Waldo Emerson had once confessed to a weakness for pie, and that Margaret Fuller had a woman's natural fondness for pretty clothes — and as the stanch Julia Ward Howe had come safely through a youth spent in New York City, concluded that she might be relied upon to withstand the blandishments of Sorosis. They sent her as their delegate. From our New Century Club we sent a very conservative worldling, and a "dyed-in-the-wool" Quaker, whose ancestors had paddled up the Delaware with William Penn. Now, if we half expected these delegates of ours to come home loaded with captious criticism, or depreciation of their hostess' ambition, we were doomed

to disappointment. The great idea which had been conceived in the alert brain of our sister club, and which was big with importance to the women of our country, so dominated their thoughts that they brought to us only this stirring message: "The Clubs of the whole United States are to be federated. If we would keep step with the onward march of events, we must join in the procession."

What happened to Boston was never fully understood, but you know the old saying: "You can always tell a Boston woman — but you cannot tell her much."

Maybe Sorosis told her too much, for she hesitated, though happily for all of us not for long; and what the Federation idea can do backed up by the brain and heart of New England we all felt as we passed through that wonderful Biennial in Boston two years ago.

Happily it fell to my lot to be a delegate to the first meeting of the Federation, held in New York, April 23 to 25, 1890.

Looking back through the haze of twenty years, I ask myself what are the impressions which still abide with me of that initial meeting, and of these I reckon as most important the revelation we clubwomen from all parts of the United States were to each other. As one and another appeared upon the platform to give her club report we nudged the neighbor next to us with surprised delight — "Isn't she clever?" "What wit!" "How graceful!" "What sound common sense!" To-day feminine ability does not surprise us. We expect it of clubwomen, but in that earlier day each one gave us a new and peculiar joy. It was a notable gathering. There was Mrs. Phœbe A. Hearst from far-off California, whose sweet Madonna face presaged perhaps the great work she was to do for motherhood a little later on.

Mrs. Kate Tannett Woods of Massachusetts, alert, resourceful, suggestive, who first proposed the gift of the loving cup presented to Sorosis at the close of the convention.



May Wright Sewall, of Indiana, elegant in dress and bearing, polished in diction, clever in debate, fertile in resource.

Mrs. Harriet Robinson of Malden, Massachusetts, stanch, practical, who tried to keep us up to the little we had ever learned of parliamentary law and practice. We swallowed her decisions with open-mouthed wonder that one small head could carry all she knew.

The whole convention fell at the feet of two charming Southerners, Miss Temple and Mrs. McKinney, of Tennessee, who gave us the first evidence of the power the gracious and practical Southern woman is to be in the work falling to the united womanhood of this great reconstructed country. To those of us who had been through the bitterness of the Civil War, the sound of those soft Southern voices gave us a thrill of assurance. Now, we knew truly that "Tennessee was in the Union." And brooding over all our deliberations was the beautiful president of Sorosis, Mrs. Ella Dietz Glynes, whose eyes had the gentle serious look of a child who has wandered in from a dream world somewhere; whose elegance and charm of voice and manner made of that ugly stage a very drawing-room of grace and refinement. From her lips fell quite unconsciously the words now graven on the hearts of a million federated women. As she closed her little speech on taking the chair she said, "We look for unity, but unity in diversity, and we pledge ourselves to work for a common cause, the cause of women throughout the world."

Our second source of surprise was in the great amount of work which had been accomplished since the birthday party of the year before. The Advisory Committee appointed then had canvassed every state in the Union, searching out the Women's Clubs, and had even penetrated foreign lands. As a consequence of its correspondence, sixty clubs representing seventeen states had united to form the nucleus of the new organization. The Committee had held thirteen meetings and were able to present the draft of a constitution. We have

tinkered that old instrument almost beyond recognition; it is a never ending delight to a clubwoman to fuss with by-laws and rules; but on reviewing the old formulas and the new, one is interested to see how fully the spirit and practice of the first draft are found in the rulings which govern us to-day.

From this modest beginning the Federation has trodden its way gloriously, but it has had its slippery places, its hills of difficulty, its lions in the path. Scarcely was the young organization started on her course than a sister society, the National Council of Women, besought her to come and nestle under her wing. But the Federation found a Washington in her first president, who counseled that she "make no entangling alliances," but work out her own salvation, albeit it might be with fear and trembling. It meant real courage to maintain this stand against so seductive a pleader as May Wright Sewall, but at Chicago the battle was fought and won, and the little maid trudged on alone.

At Philadelphia the growing child was found to need schooling, and her lessons in reorganization began. At Louisville she had for the first time to learn the discipline of choice,—a lesson I am sorry to say not fully accepted yet, for the department system first adopted at Louisville, though continued up to this time, has always met with considerable protest. It seems to be hard for woman to learn that in the new great world of social endeavor recently opened up to her she must make her choice of effort. She can neither glean in all fields nor feast at all tables which make their seductive appeal to her mind and heart.

At Denver the young Federation set her foot squarely upon the suggestion that a party using political methods of campaigning could carry its candidate into the presidential chair.

At Milwaukee she announced her policy of retaining the individual club as a direct member of the general organization.



At Los Angeles she proclaimed her conviction that the Federation should maintain the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number; that the close union of the intelligent women of the whole country was of primary importance, while lesser issues might be left to the adjustment of time and of wiser generations to come.

If at St. Louis, St. Paul and Boston no great question of policy has agitated the convention, it is probably but the lull which precedes some new enunciation of important advance, for no human body but has its growing pains as it pushes on to maturity.

If this Federation has made its development wisely, it is because it has been mothered by great women. Six presidents it has had, all of them of exceptional character and ability. The first, Charlotte Emerson Brown, happily for us, was a woman of unlimited vision. Born of a race of scholars and philosophers, she was incapable of a mean or narrow view. She had the imagination of the broad West, tempered by family traditions laid in the best stock of the East. With unerring impulse the first convention turned to her as its leader. With warm heart and glad hand she greeted every timid club, which asked with newborn curiosity what might be the meaning of this newly formed organization for women. At her own expense she traveled East and West over our great country, greeting such clubs as had joined the new enterprise, and awakening interest in many more. The marvelous growth of the infant under her fostering care was to her a continuous marvel and delight. In 1893 after the Chicago Fair, she wrote to me: "I think it is possible we may in time have as many as five hundred clubs in the Federation. It is glorious, but the thought of so many staggers me." For Mrs. Brown had not conceived of anything more than the periodical assembling of a loosely bound group of individual clubs. But her successor, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, with the same spiritual grasp and breadth of vision, had the practical

advantage of close association with the great achievement of women in the Chicago Exposition, and she was quick to see that we must organize on local as well as general lines, if we would form a compact and permanent body; under her guidance state federations were rapidly formed.

With our third president, Mrs. Lowe of Georgia, came a great awakening of interest in the Southern states, and one after another they swung into line and took their places in the great American Sisterhood.

The fourth in office, Mrs. Dimies T. Denison, with wondrous grace and dignity introduced the rapidly maturing young society to the assembled world at the St. Louis Exposition in 1896.

And then there came to the presidency one whom we like to think of as the great type of forceful American womanhood, a happy combination of East and West, of warm heart, but cool blood, full of mother wit and sanctified common sense, whom we all have known and loved and have been proud to call our president — Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker.

Of our present well-beloved leader it must remain for future historians to speak, but she cannot be omitted from this record since she is woven into all the memories of this organization. I can hardly conceive of the Federation without Mrs. Moore in it somewhere. During the Biennial at Chicago in 1892, a little woman spoke with modest air but strong conviction of the value of higher education to women. She was one of many who took part in that conference, most of them previously unknown to the world or to each other. But those who sat in the seats of the mighty took note of the modest speaker; and soon after we find her in their councils, serving in many offices and always with a faithfulness and competence difficult to excel. I like to think that in her we enjoy the real first fruits of the Federation spirit. Does not her work teach us, that it is not by chance or simple favor that we must select



our leader, but through knowledge of her ability, her devotion, her capacity for great self-sacrifice?

The social side of the Federation has perhaps found higher expression at the local meetings of Board and Council, than in our very large biennial gatherings. The first of these was held at Orange, New Jersey, in the spring of 1891.

It was a new departure in club life and a fresh revelation of women to each other.

A banquet was given in our honor by the great scientist, Thomas A. Edison, and his charming wife. All the responses to the toasts were made by the sex that usually sits in silence at the festal board. It was an experience unique to most of us, and nobody knew what it all might portend except the sphinx, who was made of ice and adorned the center of the table, and as usual she wouldn't tell.

The beautiful room glowing with blossoms of orange and yellow is still an unfaded vision in the memory, and equally vivid is the recollection of the visit to the workshops of the great wizard, and my vain endeavor to understand his careful explanations of how he chained the lightning and bent it to his will.

One lingers with wistful pleasure over all those early board and council meetings held in widely separated sections of the country,—at the house beautiful of Mrs. Ralph Emerson, at Rockford, Illinois, in 1892, at Chicago during the World's Fair of 1893; at St. Louis in 1894, and at Atlanta during the exposition of 1895. All these occasions of graceful interstate courtesies and interchange of vital thought mark red-letter days in the lives of those privileged to attend them. With the meetings at Louisville my personal connection with them ceased. No doubt they are still times of rare enjoyment, but you will pardon me if I feel a gentle pity for you, who did not know the joy of those early days, when the club world was in its spring-time and every day brought the discovery of a fresh delight in the diversity of our unity.

How glad I should be, did time permit, to say one word in praise of those who have served us so faithfully on board and committee. They may be found in nearly every state, and are loyal still though perhaps not always able to attend biennial meetings. It is a long roll of gracious womanhood. Two, who years since passed on, I must stop to mention with a tear — Anna Longstreth of Philadelphia, and Sarah V. Cooper of San Francisco.

How have we grown in size, in knowledge, in power; in size from sixty clubs representing seventeen states in 1890, to nearly 1000 clubs, forty-seven state federations and many foreign societies.

In knowledge from simple interest in club management to the vital questions of the hour. Let us go back to early biennials and see what subjects invited our attention. They were such as these:

“Comparative value of oral and written addresses.

“How far should home talent be cultivated in clubs?

“Should we own club houses?

“Should we engage in philanthropic work?

“Should clubs become so expensive that women of small means are obliged to retire from them?

“What is the best hour for meeting — ten in the morning or three in the afternoon?”

Compare topics like these with the program of this Biennial, covering the great problems of social advancement, and see how our horizon has widened until we touch upon the problems of government and the province of statecraft.

And yet — pardon me if I say it — we are only half awake. I wish I could stir up your pure minds by way of this remembrance to a realization of the great opportunity set before you, who are to follow in the path which we have broken.

But 'tis not for me to prophesy. It is the young who must see the vision and follow it. The old may but “dream dreams.”



## XVI.—TO-DAY — IT'S SPIRIT AND OPPORTUNITY

MRS. J. L. WASHBURN, MINNESOTA

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION: A distinguished speaker has dealt with the past, a distinguished speaker will talk of the future. I have made it clear to the president that I wished to consume as little as possible of the time that might be given to them; hence, without depreciatory preface, let me begin at once by asking a few pertinent questions, careful consideration of which may be profitable, even if you do not agree with the answers suggested. Women's Federations have passed the experimental stage. I do not think that I can justly be charged with being prejudiced, unduly partial or over enthusiastic, if I say that in my opinion there is no more powerful or influential voluntary association, working for the betterment or reform of conditions in the social organism, than the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

What is the present nature and spirit of the organization? How does it differ from that of the past? What are the sources of its strength? What its weakness and the dangers, if any, which menace it?

*First. The nature of the organization.*

Is it an organization for self-culture? Yes. Is it an educational association? Yes. Is it a reform body? Yes. Is it an industrial and economic organization? Yes. And because it is all of these and more, and because it is some of them exclusively, it is unique and it is strong.

At the beginning of the club movement, before federation was dreamed of by poets, or suggested by philosophers, a club was a little group of women who had come together, not because they recognized the power which might inhere in organization, but from a social instinct — a grouping desire for companionship and help in their efforts toward self-improvement.

Later, when the idea of federation first took root, the

purpose was still little different, the main thought being help for the individual member.

Federation offered her wider opportunities and experiences, a more extended outlook, and association with women of other localities, having different points of view on various matters.

I am mentioning this early period of federation and emphasizing its then main purpose merely to make more clear its contrast to the present organization, with its many departments of work for improvement and reform in matters most varied in their nature and extended in their scope; and to direct attention to the present broader and more inclusive spirit of the organization.

But let me ask, has the original purpose been discarded? Is the ultimate unit no longer the study club, whose main object is the education and improvement of its members?

To this question I think that we must answer candidly and fearlessly that while, as a federation, there have been taken on many kinds of altruistic and reform work, made possible by its collective strength and influence, yet the ultimate unit is still the study club whose chief object continues the same as twenty years ago. This is true at least of the greatest number. Therein lies one of the chief sources of strength to the organization. The ultimate units are study clubs — self-culture clubs, if you will, though the word has been severely treated and can no longer take itself seriously — clubs which carry a membership, a large proportion of which are either lukewarm or even indifferent as to the work for general education, philanthropy and reform undertaken by the Federation.

Perhaps the statement is not pleasing that a large proportion of our membership is indifferent to the serious problems over which our committees are struggling and with which the main part of our program here is concerned. But is it not true? And does it make any real difference in our strength?



Every member of a federated club, however indifferent — every federated club, whatever its attitude toward the problems of the whole body, counts for numbers — *and their affirmative influence may be secured.* They add to our strength. They belong to us — a federation reserve if you please. Yet they themselves, many of them, are merely little study circles, their only concession to the prevailing spirit being their membership in the state federation.

Remember this charitably, committee chairmen, when discouraged by your failure to get satisfactory responses to questions put to individual clubs as to work done for civics, for forestry, for civil service reform and the like. I am not offering an excuse for the president or secretary who fails to answer your letters. That is an inexcusable breach of good manners. But you can overlook unsatisfactory replies from the little club, which has not yet grown to the point where these broader interests have become a natural part of its development. Such clubs have the spirit of federation only in its lowest form, but we must admit not an uncommon form.

Other clubs, while pursuing systematically some course of study or lectures, at the same time and without injury to their regular work consistently devote a part of each program to the consideration of federation problems and policies. The nature of their study programs too has doubtless been somewhat modified by their interest in these matters.

There is less time spent than formerly in delving into the remote past or pondering over the meaning of some hazy sentence of Browning (our favorite straw man). The club program of twenty years ago certainly sounded very learned. To-day, impelled by the spirit of the federation, many of our clubs are interested in vital current subjects, the study and consideration of which make for better living, better citizenship and improvement in our social, civil and educational institutions. If federation had done nothing more than turn our

attention to these practical subjects for our own individual good, it would have justified its existence.

What more valuable or necessary knowledge can a man or woman have than to know how to live wisely and well in the world of here and now? For this is man's world and he has to live in it; nor does he bring to it even the instinctive knowledge of his brute brothers. Everything must be acquired. Above all he has to learn and know himself and his place in the civilization into which he is born and which it is his duty to help to develop in a still higher degree.

Again, the spirit of the Federation has inspired many individual clubs to an active use of their collective and organized power, as is shown by their committees, which, in many instances, are the same as those of the General Federation, due largely to the wise recommendation of one of our recent presidents.

To such clubs we may hopefully look for leaders in the work of the Federation, leaders who, from their past training, are able to get a vision of the future and seize the opportunity of the present. Programs of all our federations, district, state and general, have undergone perhaps as much change in character as have those of individual clubs.

Reports to these meetings from clubs, as to their courses and methods of study, time of meeting, etc., have in great measure given way to encouraging accounts of broader work in which the collective effort of the organization has been employed.

But still, I again say, that one of the great sources of our strength is the fact that clubs have aims and purposes besides those which engross the attention at Federation meetings. In these are to be found the causes for their individual existence and the guaranty of their perpetuity.

Enthusiasm for reform waxes and wanes, causes are won and lost. It is sometimes difficult to hold an organization together in the face of repeated failure to attain the object sought; but the strong basis of self-



interest supporting our constituent clubs is a rock upon which we may rest when discouraged in a losing cause, a bulwark for the permanence of organization and a nucleus of strength for future collective work.

*Another source of strength* to this organization is the varied nature of its public activity. With all the different lines of work provided through the various committees of the Federation, one must indeed be difficult to please who will not concede that some of them at least are worth while. Then, too, this variety of purpose gives our members little chance of becoming cranks and fanatics on any one reform, or of being subjected to such accusation. *Cranks* are said to be necessary to the *lifting* work of the world, but few of us desire to earn the title; and it is very difficult when one's eyes are fixed on some particular reform and every effort is bent toward its accomplishment, not to become one-sided.

Public questions must be studied from every point of view; for instance, that most intricate of problems, arising from the relation of capital and labor, including child labor, must be considered from the standpoint, not only of both the employer and the employed, but of general society, in order to see clearly and consider intelligently the contentions of those who may be selfishly interested. Please do not think that we assume to have done this; but the wise arrangement of the General Federation by which many lines of work are taken up through the agency of its various committees, together with the fraternal connection of this organization with other bodies formed each for some specific purpose, has given to its members a better opportunity for the all-around consideration of many different subjects than would be possible were its efforts confined to any particular object.

*A third source of strength* lies in the nature of the work attempted by this organization. Consider for a moment its various committees — Education, Art, Literature, Library Extension, Household Economics,

Civics, Civil Service Reform, Forestry, Industrial and Child Labor, Legislative, Pure Food, Reciprocity. Is there a subject among them which has two legitimate sides, in the ranks of both of which are to be found thoughtful, conscientious, disinterested people? Of course we must give a broad interpretation to the word "thoughtful." It must also mean studious of the subject — enlightened; and "disinterested" must mean without selfish interest. Examine the different subjects covered by these committees in this light and by this test and you will find, I think, that as to none of them is there an honest difference of opinion among enlightened, conscientious, public-spirited people. You may cite "*Forestry*" as an exception, as a subject about which there is an honest difference of opinion; you may bring whole realms of newspapers to me filled with the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy by way of proof; but when all extraneous matter is removed and the words *thoughtful* and *disinterested* given their proper emphasis, you will not find an honest difference of opinion existing as to the necessity for properly conserving our forests and all other natural resources; but rather differences as to the best methods to be used to accomplish the ultimate object.

*Child Labor* is another subject about which there seems to be a decided difference of opinion; otherwise why have we not been able to do away with the evil and eliminate the wrong to the children of to-day and to those yet unborn? Is it not because of the strength of those who are selfishly interested? Of those who, either as employers or parents, desire the benefit of child labor? There is no great difference of opinion among thoughtful, disinterested people as to the fact of the evil or the wisdom of its removal. It may be inquired, "Why do we not have committees on Religion, Politics, Woman Suffrage or Temperance?" I assume that it is either because there are honest differences of opinion concerning these subjects among thoughtful people, or else perhaps the time has not yet



come, if it ever shall, when it is wise to take them up directly. *Religion* and *creeds* are as yet closely interwoven. Direct entrance into the field of *politics* leads into *partisanism*. There is a vast difference of opinion about *suffrage*; and *temperance* means a different thing to different persons. A rule of conduct for all may not be wisely evolved from a rule that is salutary for an individual.

There is no lack of religious bodies, political organizations, temperance and suffrage societies. These are open to all individuals. I maintain that the Federation has acted wisely in abstaining from direct entrance into these fields and has in fact, consciously or otherwise, applied the test which I have given in these cases. We may from our broad and independent attitude exercise a wholesome influence upon all these matters without directly pledging our organization in a definite form.

*A fourth source of strength* to this organization is the kind of women prominent in its membership, constituting its official body, directing its policies, heading its committees and appearing on its programs.

Is it not because of the recognized ability of such women as our president and her immediate predecessor, and others whom I might mention, because of their freedom from fanaticism and one-sidedness and their ability to consider a question, calmly and deliberately and from every side, that the General Federation has been honored more than any other body of women in being asked to send representatives to different distinguished gatherings of men, where matters of weight and importance to the whole country were to be considered? Safe leadership, or the want of it, has been the cause of the rise or fall of societies, of institutions, of parties and of nations throughout the history of civilization.

I have mentioned at some length four sources of strength. We are not without our weaknesses; but the fact that we recognize and are ready to face them,

together with twenty years of experience in organization, will help to avert serious consequences.

I am not to deal with the future, but I cannot refrain from suggesting that we should avoid the calamitous effects of over confidence or of an exaggerated conception of our own importance. Undue haste and over enthusiasm in taking up new subjects or championing new causes will assuredly bring reason for regret. Sometime, too, carefully, prudently and thoughtfully we may want to remove the danger inherent in our present duplex and illogical basis of representation and membership.

We also have the somewhat delicate problem ever with us to coöperate through our committees and otherwise with many other large and influential bodies, to which we are bound by fraternal ties, in such manner that our work may complement theirs and without either body becoming a part of or merged into the other.

I leave the future with its possibilities to the distinguished lady who is to follow me.

The spirit of the federation of to-day is, as never before, one of diversity *and* unity. Its opportunity is to exert the great influence on vital questions of varied character in the social organism, that can alone be exercised by an independent body of intelligent, thoughtful and unselfishly interested members.

Profiting by and rejoicing in the past of our organization, let us cross the threshold of the future with confidence and self-control; firm in the hope that, moved by the spirit of a broad altruism and unfailing loyalty, and guided by safe leadership, the usefulness of our organization has but just begun.

## XVII. — TO-MORROW — AN OUTLOOK INTO THE FUTURE

MRS. SARAH S. PLATT DECKER, COLORADO

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION: Three things the Federation must have in its



To-morrow, and three things it must not have. Let us consider the negative first, because the positive always makes for a more salutary state of mind, and therefore should have the final hearing, in order that we may go on our way rejoicing.

Three things the Federation must not have if its To-morrow is to be the glorious perpetuity of To-day. First, it must not have *traditions*. Tradition has throttled progress since the beginning of all things. Intolerance, narrow-mindedness and coldness in religion comes from tradition, making us Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and of all creeds and faiths, instead of making us Christians. Tradition has brought the "shame of cities," and the unspoken fear is in too many hearts, that this nation even, the one great and only force which has made for freedom and equality in the world, this great Republic, is to fail and decay — because we have inherited party politics, and are Democrats and Republicans instead of Patriots.

Tradition has made perhaps one million illiterate children in the nation to-day, a greater menace than a foreign foe; tradition has put two million little ones into mines, shops and factories to be ground into dollars, instead of molded into citizens; tradition has made the appalling loss of one hundred and fifty thousand lives in one year from one disease alone; tradition has devastated our forests and woodlands, caused our streams to be diverted, and our national resources to be wantonly wasted, because we have had foolish state pride and have been vain-glorious and self-sufficient over state rights, being Ohioans and Coloradoans and Kentuckians instead of Americans.

Already there is the warning sign that the Federation has an inheritance which will go far to prevent grand achievements. In tabulating the answers to the questions sent out by the committee of which I am chairman, the Civil Service Reform Committee, I find many of this sort: "no activity, we were founded as a culture club, pure and simple." That is the deadly

work of the vampire tradition. What is a "culture club, pure and simple"? Do you recall Professor Zueblin's glorious definition at the Boston Biennial? "Culture is the habit of mind instinct with purpose, cognizant of a tendency and connection in human achievement, able and industrious in discerning the great from the trivial." Many of these clubs reporting no interest were named "Shakespeare" clubs. I have wondered if they have ever even opened the book of the great teacher. Do you remember his word, which I wish could be placed in letters of gold over every club room in this land;

"Thyself and thy belonging  
Are not thine own so proper as to waste  
Thyself upon thy virtues, they on thee;  
Heaven doth with us, as we with torches do,  
Not light them for themselves; for if our virtues  
Did not go forth of us, 'twere all alike  
As if we had them not."

Let me tell you the story of a club which I believe the mighty master Shakespeare would have rated as a "culture club, pure and simple." This club was not "founded," but was born, and born alive, in a small Western city. In this community there was developed, almost at a word, a disreputable district, peopled with bad men and women, who carried on an absolute crusade for the ruin of the young people. The club members held a secret session and resolved to save their boys and girls. They formulated a letter, which was sent to every immoral man and woman in the town and which read something after this fashion: "You will leave this city within twenty-four hours or extreme measures will be adopted," signing the name of the club, which being of Greek origin was very mysterious, and correspondingly effective. I do not know if they placed a skull and crossbones at the head of the letter, but whatever was the cause, the effect produced was the immediate departure of the spoilers. But this



"Shakespeare" club realized that the danger might return and resolved to intrench themselves against future evil by building a church. A census of the religious beliefs of the members was taken, and it was found that the Presbyterians were two in the majority, and that was the creed adopted. The central idea of the church, and its real meaning, is a club room for the people, which is open day and evening, which is free to all, which has been the means of redeeming that city — and not that city alone, for this story was told far up among the mountains in a mining camp, and the plan was copied there, with equally splendid results.

"Culture, a habit of mind instinct with purpose." Shakespeare: "for if our virtues did not go forth of us 'twere all alike as if we had them not." Not tradition, friends, for the Federation, but true and veritable culture.

The second thing which the Federation cannot have in its To-morrow is *habit*. We are prone to be victims in this direction, both as individuals and as organizations.

A very insignificant happening made me a convert to the woman's club idea, and my faith has never waned. Many of us no doubt remember the old "Monday" habit of our childhood home, in blessed New England. It was a day in the depths, wash day, and all of the family were made wretched by it. Nothing comfortable nor of the usual routine could be expected even in well-to-do homes. Soon after my first rather weak introduction into club life, I paid a visit to a friend in a small New England city, and was obliged to take my train for departure upon Monday morning, and a rainy one at that, which used to be the acme of misery in the old day. My friend came with me to the station and I casually inquired if she would immediately return home. "No," she replied, "I think I will spend the morning at the club." I was amazed and asked, "Is there a club meeting on Monday morning?" remembering vividly the old odor of soap and suds. "Yes,

the class in French history," was the answer. I felt like throwing up my hat and shouting for joy that the old wash day habit was broken, and I was then and there born into the club doctrine.

I want to give you another instance to illustrate the great and malign influence of habit.

I once attended a small district meeting in a little town on the plains, a very remote and lonely settlement, nothing ever happened within its borders; as one remarked "there was not a laugh in the whole place." One of the members who attended the first day's session had lived in the town ten years. She told me she felt as if she could not think, so monotonous had been her life. She was like one who starves, as she drank in every word that was spoken. The session opened and continued for the whole of Thursday, and would close on Friday noon. As I passed the house of the woman to whom this Federation session had brought, as she expressed it, the "breath of life," I saw that, on the second morning, instead of being on her way to the hall, she was washing the windows of her house. "Are you not coming to the meeting?" I asked in amazement. "No, I cannot come," she replied. "I always wash my windows on Friday." No thought of the one possible uplift in ten dreary years, no thought of the many Fridays to come when nothing would prevent the routine, but only that wretched taskmaster, habit. The Federation's To-morrow is the continuance of the loosening of those formerly hopeless bonds and of setting the prisoners free.

One habit which we have already acquired as an organization, which will be the utter demoralization of our To-morrow, if continued, is that of doubt as to our own continuing existence.

I remember, when at the Biennial in Denver our well-beloved Honorary President Mrs. Henrotin retired from office. She had been the great organizer, she had understood the ideality of the club movement, and the members loudly proclaimed, "The Federation will



die without her"; but it did not die. Then came what might be called our "teething" period, when we had fears within and foes without, and we said, "The Federation will die," it will not survive these strains upon mind and body; but the Federation did not die. When our other Honorary President, Mrs. Denison, retired in St. Louis, again it was said, "The Federation will die." I heard it myself on street cars, it was blazoned in public press. To put in place of a New York "Sorosist" president, a Western woman, "wild and woolly," a suffragist, a believer in women in public work, why of course the Federation would die; but the Federation did not die. After four years, having contracted the "habit" of my presidency, two years ago in Boston, again came the same iteration, "The Federation will die." But the Federation is not dead, far from it. On the contrary, the unspeakable joy of my heart to-night is, that never has the Federation made such progress as in the past two years, such growth in solidarity, in concentration, in marching under orders, in following a leader. Let us give that old habit to the past to-night, and let us start our to-morrow with the clean page upon which shall be written: the Federation was born for life, and not for death, it has had its yesterday of faith and hope, it has its to-day of purpose and accomplishment, and its to-morrow is forever and forever, because it was so ordained when it became a part of the plan of the world.

The third thing which we must not have in the To-morrow is *age*. The Federation must be born again at every Biennial. At least let us adopt the fashion of a dear old friend of mine. She is aged as far as years count, but meeting her at an evening entertainment not long since, I exclaimed concerning her fresh and youthful appearance. "Well," she remarked confidentially, "the truth is I am not much in the daytime, but I light up well." If the Federation's To-morrow shall be able to "light up well" it must not go in the beaten path of the past. I do not believe for

one instant in continuing the same standing committees unless they demonstrate at the convention their right to live by virtue of work accomplished. To say in a club or state federation, "We have always had that committee," even though it is a dead letter, simply being listed in the yearbook, is old age of the most virulent type. I always think when I hear that saying, of the old couple who came to be married, each of them having entered into that state several times before. The minister asked them to rise and join their right hands, but they remained fast in their chairs. Once more he suggested that they should stand, out of respect to the sacred rite, whereupon the old man remarked doggedly, "We've generally sot." The Federation must have no "sotting" in its To-morrow, but must be on its feet ready, courageous, alert, with youth everlasting.

The three things which the Federation must have in its To-morrow are *Prophets, Saints and Men*.

A Prophet is one who takes the long view. The Federation has been criticised at times, because the prophets of its past have not believed in naming it as a reform organization. Friends, it is more than that, it is the one and only medium for the manufacture, so to speak, of those blessed necessities, Reformers. You have all heard the story of the old lady from the country, who, upon her first visit to the city, wondered where all the Smiths came from, but was enlightened and quite satisfied by seeing a sign over a tremendous building which read, "Smith Manufacturing Co." The Federation could with perfect truth put at the head of its yearly directory this legend: "General Federation of Women's Club Reformers manufactured here, Supplies furnished at Short Notice." The prophets have long seen this process of creation, which I may take a moment of your time to explain. Here is a quiet home woman, she has lived within her four walls, she has never seen her name in the newspaper, and what is more to the point her husband has



never had that notoriety either. She joins a study club, a very innocent and feminine act. Presently some member who was "born," and not "founded," makes a suggestion that the club shall use its influence to create a park or to found a free library or to establish a juvenile court; all very feminine and "motherish" so far, and our quiet home woman becomes one of a committee to put the request before the city authorities. Then her eyes are opened when she finds that she is of not the slightest consequence, that the taxes which she helps to earn by hard work and sacrifice are expended in any manner which may suit the party in control; and the truth dawns upon our quiet home woman that there is no power where there is no ballot. There's a convert to woman suffrage, and a full-fledged reformer immediately. Here is a good mother who is afflicted and fearful because her children must pass numerous saloons on their way to school; single-handed she can do nothing, but she brings her story to the club. The discovery is made that the average town and city collect fees from saloons and liquor people, and then use three times as much as they receive to take care of the helpless children, deserted wives, and jail and penitentiary inmates, which these same saloons have manufactured. This gentle mother becomes an advocate of a "dry" town and a reformer on the instant.

I could give hundreds and perhaps thousands of instances of this conversion to splendid regenerating work through the club and Federation. You cannot plunge the average woman into reform or public work, at one fell stroke. She must have the club contact for a bit of the give and take of life. She must become accustomed to obedience to orders, to the toleration, and to the careful investigation which has been so mightily effective in the Federation world; and so the Federation needs its Prophets old and new, who will not heed the importunity of the moment, but will look to the abiding To-morrow.

Second, the Federation must have Saints.

A saint is one who endures to the end. Too often our Federation life is evanescent. We have not made it part of our existence. The day is here, when each one of the half million women in the organization is needed. She has a post of duty in city, state and the nation itself. I love to think of that mighty army coming to answer to the call of the leaders, — "Soldier Saints," whose creed is the belief in the never-ending To-morrow of the Federation; saints who add to their titles of Mother, Wife, Daughter and Sister, the one which means the larger life of patriotic citizenship, "Clubwomen." To be named a Clubwoman forsooth, may it come to be a title so proud that it shall outrank royalty or pride of birth. May it be an inheritance to our children more precious than lands or gold. May it mean to all peoples, that a mighty army of peaceful soldiers are happily fighting to preserve the hope of the world, a free nation.

And lastly, in the To-morrow of the Federation we must have Men, because that is the one crying need of the nation to-day. As I said, the past and present of the Federation has been given to creating believers and workers among women. The To-morrow of the Federation means the effort to convert our brothers, that they too may become, — the only word which really expresses what I mean is "Clubwomen." We must have half a million of men who are "Clubwomen," if the nation is to endure. This is not a jest. I say it advisedly, even prayerfully. The men of the nation who correspond in intellect and opportunity to the clubwomen are not doing citizen duty.

I am going to give you an illustration of this which has always given me the heartache for the dread that it represents a growing type. Some months since, I was taking an automobile ride with a man in an Eastern city, — a man of wealth, in the prime of life, educated and traveled. We were speaking of the coming winter and he said he looked forward with little of pleasure



to it. "After the automobile and the hunting seasons are over," he remarked, "life is so dull." And yet in that man's own state, only a few weeks previous to this conversation, the governor had issued an appeal setting forth the condition of the almshouses of the commonwealth. The statement was made, that the plight of those public institutions was too deplorable for print, and the terrible feature of the situation was that the only homes provided for the dependent and helpless children of the state were these same wretched asylums. These children, dependent and forsaken, through no fault of their own, future citizens and builders of the state; a hopeless outlook for the proper peopling of the commonwealth. And my automobile friend found "life dull" with such a citizen's opportunity before him.

He reminded me of a story told by Professor Booker Washington about a very seedy looking individual who came to cross a ferry which was operated by an old colored man named "Rastus." He announced that he wanted to cross the ferry, but must borrow the price, three cents, of the ferryman, as he had no money. "Hain't you got no land?" demanded Rastus. "No." "Hain't you got no home?" "No." "Hain't you got no place nowhere?" "No." "And you haint got no money?" "No." "Wa'll, stranger, I'se mighty sorry for you, I is, I'se some mighty sorry for you, but I ain't gwine to lend yer no tree cents. A man dat ain't got no land and ain't got no house and ain't got no place and ain't got tree cents, it don't make no manner of diffence to nobody which side de ferry he's on."

And I felt with Rastus, that it never would make "no manner of difference to nobody," which side of the ferry my rich, educated, automobile man is on. But we must make that man and the many many others like him into "Clubwomen." That is the next great step. What could this one man do in this specific instance, for example? Let us look for a moment at our English brothers, they give us a fine pattern. The

first time I visited England I went to the East Side London Hospital, which corresponds to our county or city hospitals. You know how we manage these institutions here. We have county or city commissioners, selected because they carried their ward or precinct at the last election, we pay them salaries, and they in turn employ all the party left overs, and the consequence is graft, neglect, exposes, etc. To this wonderful hospital in London came thousands every day, both inmates and out-patients. There are 500 nurses alone. I said to my English friend, "but it must mean great salaries for the trustees and managers. How can it ever be kept in such perfect fashion by the usual haphazard Board of Commissioners?" He was amazed. "Why, Madam, the trustees of this hospital are the greatest men of London. The Premier of England is proud to serve upon it." "If a man has attained to even a moderate fortune in our country, then he must give a certain portion of his time to public service."

That is the dire need of the Republic to-day. I suppose in this good state of Ohio there are twenty thousand men who could gradually retire from business life, with sufficient income to live in comfort and even luxury. They are men of business success, of great experience, and they cannot be bought, not only because of their honesty, but there is no necessity. Let it date from to-night and let this great leader among states, this state that furnishes Presidents at the "drop of the hat," so to speak, give to the world this example of intelligent patriotism. Let these twenty thousand successful men take their places as legislators, as mayors and members of councils, as trustees and commissioners upon public boards, for the scientific upbuilding, not only materially, but intellectually and spiritually, of this commonwealth,—this commonwealth which has given them the brains and blood, through which they have made their triumph. It would not take much of your time, gentlemen. It is more interesting than



any game of money getting, and such service makes life vivid and glorious. Münsterberg says, "The public welfare must give to everybody thorough work, thorough politics, thorough education, thorough art, thorough religion, a kind of life interest and life content in which envy is meaningless." It could make the state of Ohio a shining refutation of the growing idea that America is a failure. Twenty thousand "women clubwomen" shoulder to shoulder with twenty thousand "men clubwomen" would make pure white every black spot in every state in the Union. It does not count simply to give money. If the Carnegies and Rockefellers and Sages had given their mighty minds, their wonderful business ability, to public service, what a glorious vintage would be theirs. Instead of these great fortunes which it is almost impossible to properly adjust for real good, instead of a tombstone epitaph, "Here lies a man who possessed one hundred millions of dollars," the grave of such a man would be the "shrine of a grateful people" and his the life which would live on forever.

The To-morrow of the Federation must be more and more the sloughing off of the enemy tradition, more and more the loosening of the shackles of habit, more and more the keeping of eternal youth, more and more prophets, more and more saints, and the beginning of a mighty campaign for the conversion of our brothers, away from greed, away from graft, away from selfish ease, into the undertaking, the gigantic, but exalted undertaking of forming, so to speak, a civic government within our political government,—a civic government which would centralize all the forces now working for the building of humanity, direct and express their efforts, and in a scientific way construct, along the lines of a practical altruism, the social life of a nation, which is already established in the eyes of the world as an example of political freedom. Ellis Meredith says: "The nation is you. Every day you help or hinder it. If we weary when we 'run with the

footman,' the nation will not be able to 'contend with the horses.' If we fail in a 'Land of peace,' how shall we abide the swelling of the Jordan?"

## XVIII. — BY-LAWS

AS AMENDED, MAY, 1910

### ARTICLE I

#### MEMBERHIP

SECTION 1. The General Federation of Women's Clubs shall consist of Women's Clubs, State Federations, Territorial Federations and kindred organizations. National and International organizations may become affiliated with the General Federation.

#### *Application and Eligibility*

SECTION 2. Organizations desiring to join or become affiliated with the General Federation shall proceed as follows: Organizations in a State or Territory shall make application through the General Federation State or Territorial Secretary to the Chairman of the Membership Committee. Such application must show that the organization will have been in existence at least one year at the time of the next Biennial Convention. All other organizations shall make application directly to the Chairman of the Membership Committee, and date of organization has no bearing upon eligibility. All applications must show that the organization requires no sectarian or political test for membership; that it is not a secret society; that no one of its members is affiliated with any organization which tolerates, either by practice or teaching, violation of National or State laws, and that it agrees to the constitution and by-laws of the General Federation.

SECTION 3. The General Federation State or Territorial Secretary shall forward all applications received to the Chairman of the Membership Committee and indorsed by herself.



The organization applying for membership must send with its application its constitution and by-laws, and must also state whether the organization has at any time been a member of the General Federation.

SECTION 4. From a State where a club is a member of the State Federation, it would also be eligible to the General Federation if indorsed by the Executive Board of the State Federation, the power of admission to remain as given in Article VI, Sec. 1, of the by-laws.

### *Reinstatement to Membership*

SECTION 5. Any organization which has withdrawn from the General Federation, or whose membership has lapsed on account of non-payment of dues, may be reinstated within two years by the payment of all dues to the time of readmission. If two years have elapsed since withdrawal or lapse of membership, the organization may only be readmitted by making application in regular form, and by paying a membership renewal fee of Two Dollars (\$2.00).

## ARTICLE II

### OFFICERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The General Officers of the Federation shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and an Auditor.

#### *President*

SECTION 2. The President of the General Federation shall preside at all its meetings, and shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Council and of the Board of Directors, and shall supervise plans for extending, unifying and rendering efficient the work of the Federation.

#### *Vice Presidents*

SECTION 3. The Vice Presidents shall perform the duties usually belonging to their respective offices.

*Recording Secretary*

SECTION 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Biennial Conventions, of the Council, of the Advisory Council and of the Board of Directors. She shall also have custody of the corporate seal and of all documents pertaining to the General Federation. She shall turn over to her successor, within one month after the Biennial Convention, all General Federation property in her possession.

*Corresponding Secretary*

SECTION 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the General Federation, and be *ex-officio* a member of the Membership Committee.

*Treasurer*

SECTION 6. The Treasurer shall collect and hold all money belonging to the General Federation, and shall deposit it, subject to the order of the Board of Directors, in some reliable bank. She shall give a bond, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, for the faithful performance of her duties.

Her accounts shall be audited biennially by a certified accountant and approved by the Board, and she shall make an annual report to the Board of Directors. A full report shall be made to the Federation at each Biennial Convention.

SECTION 7. The fiscal year shall begin April first. The outgoing Treasurer shall, within one month after the close of the Biennial Convention, turn over to the Treasurer all money, vouchers, books and papers of the General Federation in her custody, together with a supplemental report, attested by the Auditor, covering all transactions from April first to the close of the Biennial Convention.

*Auditor*

SECTION 8. The Auditor shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer annually.



*Officers' Expenses*

SECTION 9. There shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by officers in the service of the Federation may be refunded from the general treasury by order of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE III

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The general officers of the Federation and eight directors shall constitute a Board of Directors, which shall transact all the business of the Federation, subject to its direction, and shall report to each Biennial Convention, and to the Council meeting midway between the Biennial Conventions, all its acts proper or necessary to be submitted.

SECTION 2. The publishing of official reports of Biennial Conventions and of General Federation directories shall be under the direction of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE IV

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

SECTION 1. The Presidents of State Federations and the Board of Directors of the General Federation shall form an Advisory Council, to meet at the call of the President.

## ARTICLE V

## COUNCIL

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors, Presidents of State Federations, of Territorial Federations, of Clubs and of kindred organizations, Chairmen of Departments of Work and General Federation State Secretaries shall constitute a Council to consider and promote the interests of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

## ARTICLE VI

## COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The action of the Membership Committee on applications to membership shall be in writing, and a unanimous vote of the Committee shall be required to elect.

In case the Committee fails to agree, the application shall be referred to the Board of Directors, a written vote of two thirds of which shall be necessary to elect to membership.

The Committee shall admit no organization whose application has not been presented to the Chairman of the Membership Committee at least sixty days preceding the first day of the Biennial Convention.

*Executive Committee*

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall, at its first meeting following the Biennial Convention, appoint an Executive Committee of three, of whom the President shall be Chairman, to transact routine business and to act in emergencies.

## ARTICLE VII

## DUES

SECTION 1. The annual dues of Clubs in the United States and Territories of fewer than twenty-five members shall be Two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50). Clubs numbering twenty-five members or more shall be at the rate of 25 cents per capita. The annual dues for State Federations shall be at the rate of 25 cents a club. The annual dues of foreign clubs shall be \$1 a club. The dues of National and International organizations shall be \$5. The annual dues for each local federation of clubs in the United States and Territories shall be \$1 a club; all other local federations shall pay 25 cents a club.

Dues shall be paid annually, not later than April



first. The dues of any organization elected to membership after the first day of January shall be credited as the dues for the year beginning the first of April next following.

SECTION 2. The Treasurer shall, if necessary, notify delinquent organizations three times during the two years, between Biennial Conventions, once during each September and May next following the Biennial Convention, and the third time a full thirty days previous to the next Biennial Convention. She shall in these notices call attention to Article VII, Sec. 5.

SECTION 3. Any club, federation, society or organization belonging to the General Federation, having in its membership both men and women, shall pay dues and be entitled to representation on the basis of its women members.

SECTION 4. Every club, federation, society or organization shall pay dues each year on the basis of membership the first of January of that year, except that for the first year dues shall be paid on the basis of membership at the time of admission.

SECTION 5. The membership of an organization of which the dues are unpaid at the close of the Biennial Convention held two years from the date at which dues become due shall be declared forfeited by the Board of Directors, and the certificate of membership recalled.

SECTION 6. Organizations may resign from membership only when in good and regular financial standing.

## ARTICLE VIII

### REPRESENTATION

SECTION 1. The voting body at a Biennial Convention shall consist of the Board of Directors, regularly accredited delegates, General Federation State and Territorial Secretaries, Chairmen of Federation Committees in State and Territories where no Federation exists and Chairmen of Departments of Work as follows: Art, Civic, Civil Service Reform, Conservation, Education, Household Economics, Industrial and

Social Conditions, Public Health, Legislative, Literature and Library Extension and other departments.

SECTION 2. Each Federated club or kindred organization of fifty members or less in the United States and Territories shall be entitled to be represented by one delegate; for a membership of between fifty and one hundred, by two delegates; and for each additional one hundred members, one additional delegate. Foreign Clubs shall be entitled to one delegate.

National and International organizations may be represented at the Biennial Convention by three delegates, and shall be entitled to all privileges of the General Federation, except the right to make motions, to hold office, and to vote for members of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Each State or Territorial Federation of twenty-five clubs or less shall be entitled to be represented by four delegates. Each State or Territorial Federation shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five clubs.

The minimum representation from local federations of ten clubs or less shall be two delegates. Each local federation of more than ten clubs shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every additional twenty clubs.

An alternate shall be elected for each delegate.

SECTION 4. Members of clubs belonging to the General Federation may be present at Biennial Conventions, may take part in discussions upon all measures brought forward, but, unless otherwise entitled, shall not introduce motions or vote.

## ARTICLE IX

### ELECTIONS

#### *Nominating Committee*

SECTION 1. The seven officers of the General Federation and eight Directors shall be elected at Biennial Conventions by ballot. One delegate from each State



or Territory, chosen by the delegation of the State or Territory, shall form a nominating board to offer a list of officers and directors for election.

### *Honorary Vice Presidents*

SECTION 2. Honorary Vice Presidents may be elected upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the number not to exceed two at any Biennial Convention.

### *Voting and Tellers*

SECTION 3. A majority of those present entitled to vote, and voting, shall constitute an election. The vote shall be cast in a room or rooms apart from the Biennial Convention. The voting hours shall be such as are directed by the Board of Directors. There shall be provided a separate poll for each two hundred and fifty (approximate) registered delegates. Each poll shall contain a locked ballot box and a register of the voters assigned to the poll.

Two tellers and one inspector shall serve at each poll, and shall be appointed by such method as the Convention shall direct. There shall also be appointed, as the Convention shall direct, a chairman of the tellers and a chairman of the inspectors. It shall be the duty of the chairman of the tellers to provide the necessary facilities for the casting and counting of the vote with accuracy and dispatch, to maintain order and quiet in the polling rooms and to enforce rigidly the laws enacted for the government of the election. No teller or inspector shall discuss with a voter the merits of a candidate or seek in any way to influence a voter in her choice of the same. Any breach of this law shall disqualify a teller or inspector for performing the duties of her office, and it shall be the duty of the chairman of the inspectors to promptly report such delinquency to the President or other presiding officer of the general session, who shall then appoint another to serve in the office so made vacant. The committee

on credentials shall furnish to the chairman of the tellers, not less than two hours before the opening of the polls, an alphabetical list of the States assigned to each poll, together with a corrected roster arranged alphabetically by towns, of the organizations entitled to representation, with the names of the delegates for each.

The teller in charge of the register shall check the name of the person voting from the list of delegates. The teller in charge of the ballot box shall place her official mark upon the back of the ballot and the voter shall then deposit the ballot in the ballot box.

It shall be the duty of the chairman of the inspectors to report to the Convention the accuracy of the count, and the duty of the chairman of the tellers to report to the Convention the result of the ballot. These reports shall be made on the completion of the count, or as soon thereafter as shall suit the pleasure of the Convention.

The chairman of the tellers, together with the chairman of the Committee on Printing, shall be authorized to attend to the printing of the ballots and to any other necessary printing incidental to the elections.

SECTION 4. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no officer shall be eligible to the same general office for more than two consecutive terms. No two members of the Board of Directors shall be from the same State. Each Officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the Biennial Convention following that of her election. In case of a vacancy, the Board of Directors shall appoint a member to serve until her successor is elected.

## ARTICLE X

### MEETINGS

#### *Biennial Conventions*

SECTION 1. The meeting of the General Federation shall take place every two years, beginning in 1892.



The place and date of meeting shall be decided by the Board of Directors.

### *Arrangements*

SECTION 2. To secure suitable arrangements for each Biennial Convention, the Board of Directors shall arrange for the appointment of a committee from the place of meeting, to act in concert with the Directors in arranging for the holding and general interest of the Convention.

### *Council*

SECTION 3. Meetings of the Council shall be held the day previous and the day following each Biennial Convention, also at the call of the Board of Directors, or upon written request of twenty-five members who represent as many different States.

### *Advisory Council*

SECTION 4. The Advisory Council shall meet at the call of the President.

### *Board of Directors*

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President, or on the written request of any three members.

## ARTICLE XI

### QUORUM

SECTION 1. The quorum of the Biennial Convention shall be one hundred members; of a Council meeting, twenty members; of an Advisory Council meeting, eleven members; and of a Board of Directors, five members.

## ARTICLE XII

### GENERAL FEDERATION STATE SECRETARY

SECTION 1. Each State Federation and each Territorial Federation shall elect a Federation Secretary,

who shall be the official medium of communication between the General Federation and the State and Territorial Federations.

SECTION 2. In States or Territories where no Federation exists, the Board of Directors of the General Federation shall appoint a committee of three from different sections of the State or Territory, who shall have charge of all General Federations business of the State.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the General Federation State Secretary to assist the President of the Federation in promoting the interest of the General Federation in her State or Territory. She shall endeavor to bring clubs not belonging to the General Federation into this organization.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. All meetings shall be conducted by the rules of parliamentary procedure, "Parliamentary Usage for Women's Clubs," by Mrs. Fox, being the authority.

### ARTICLE XIV

#### AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. These by-laws may be amended at any Biennial Convention by a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be in the possession of the Recording Secretary at least two months before the date of the Biennial Convention, and shall be appended to the call of the meeting.

These by-laws may be amended at any Biennial Convention by unanimous vote, without previous notice.





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